

## Swap negotiation gap narrows

# Israelis and UN step up pace of hostage talks

FROM ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA AND ALI JABER IN BEIRUT

WITH a potential hostage deal beginning to take shape, the United Nations secretary-general will today resume talks in Geneva with senior Israeli officials to overcome the remaining obstacles.

Javier Pérez de Cuéllar yesterday expressed optimism that a deal would soon be reached which would allow seven Israeli servicemen missing in Lebanon to be sent home and the release of the remaining ten Western hostages.

After three days of talks, which have seen Israeli and Iranian officials flying to and from Geneva to discuss the issue with the UN leader, Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said yesterday that the gap between the negotiating teams was no longer that wide. "It is not an ocean. I would say a river," he said.

Last night Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, pledged in a letter to John Major that Israel will play a

"constructive role" in seeking to secure the release of all hostages in the Middle East. Downing Street sources described Mr Shamir's reply to Mr Major's message last week as "encouraging" and Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, the spiritual leader of Hezbollah, the fundamentalist Muslim group, told the British ambassador in Lebanon that he was "very optimistic that the hostage dossier will be closed".

In a separate move, the Iranian news agency reported yesterday that Israel may release Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Hezbollah cleric kidnapped by Israeli soldiers in 1989. A brief report quoted an "informed Muslim source" in Beirut as saying that the sheikh would "possibly be reunited with his family on Saturday". Israel has made it clear that it sees the sheikh as its main bargaining counter to win the release of the missing servicemen.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a moderate faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, said yesterday that it would return the remains of Samir Assad, an Israeli Druze sergeant captured in 1983 during Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. Daoud Tahani, a spokesman for the group, said that the soldier was killed during an Israeli bombing raid on a Lebanese base where he was being held in 1985.

Hezbollah joined in the moves to exchange detainees yesterday when it offered to free two Israeli soldiers held in its custody since 1986 in return for the release of hundreds of Arab detainees in Israel. The proposal may be thwarted, however, by the German government's silence on the fate of two Shia Muslim brothers held in its jails.

Islamic Jihad, which operates under the umbrella of Hezbollah, said in its letter to Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, that they would free all their hostages if the "detainees around the world" were released. The letter, delivered by John McCarthy, the British hostage held by the group for more than five years, set in motion the latest round of hostage talks.

Islamic Jihad's demand clearly includes Mohammad and Abbas Hamadi, the two

Shia Muslim brothers held on terrorism charges in Germany, but the Bonn government's tough stance might prevent the release of Yossi Fink and Rahmim al-Sheikh, the two Israeli soldiers. The fate of the other four missing Israeli soldiers is still unclear.

Iran's ambassador to Germany said yesterday that two German hostages held in Lebanon would be freed if Bonn released the two Muslim brothers. Heinrich Struëbig, aged 50, and Thomas Kempner, aged 30, were taken hostage in May 1989 and have been held by the family of the Hamadi brothers.

A German government spokesman declined to comment on the possibility of an exchange yesterday, but the German foreign ministry said its top Middle East negotiator had been sent to Geneva to take part in contacts between Arabs, Israel and Western countries.

As Israeli government spokesmen played down reports of imminent breakthroughs, Uri Lubrani, Israel's co-ordinator for Lebanese affairs, met Mr Shamir to hammer out Israel's stance during today's talks.

Wokanan Bein, a veteran diplomat who joined Mr Lubrani during Sunday's initial meeting with the UN leader, emphasised yesterday that the Jewish state will only consider releasing nearly 400 Muslim prisoners once it has received clear indications that its seven servicemen are alive.

Uri Slonim, an adviser to Moshe Arens, the defence minister, said that while the UN leader's efforts "are producing a certain new momentum, we still have not seen any proof that our seven men are alive".

Kamal Kharazmi, the Iranian ambassador to the UN, also flew home yesterday to report on his two-hour meeting with Señor Pérez de Cuéllar. The UN leader hopes that the Tehran government will be able to use its influence to resolve the hostage issue. He said he hoped that Mr Kharazmi would "convey my concerns about the situation of the Israelis, to which I give great importance, and I hope he will come back with something concrete on our common problem".

Bonn threat, page 7

## IRA warns six to get out of Ireland

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA yesterday warned six young men from Newry, Co Down, said to be involved in petty crime, to leave the island of Ireland by the weekend or face "military action".

The warning, issued by the IRA through a local priest, is the latest example of increasingly frequent illegal expulsions, which are used mostly by the IRA, but occasionally by loyalist paramilitaries.

Seamus Mallon, SDLP MP for Newry and Armagh, said it was another offensive example of the IRA deciding whether people lived or died,

where they lived, or whether they were able to work.

"The utter contradiction and hypocrisy of their position," he said, "is that having created [an] ethic of lawlessness and encouraged it, they are now trying to adopt a high moral tone by asking these people to leave the country. It is hypocritical in the extreme."

Explaining what amounts to a death threat, the IRA said it had investigated a "criminal group" operating a campaign

Continued on page 18, col 3



Living in hope: Shirley Richter, at her London home last night, awaits good news

## Freedom hopes rise for Richter

By DAVID WATTS

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

JAVIER Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations secretary-general, encouraged optimism yesterday that Ian Richter, a British businessman held by the Iraqis, will soon be freed.

Señor Pérez de Cuéllar said in Geneva that he had heard "positive sounds" on the case. He added: "Apparently the Iraqi charge d'affaires here wants to see me about the matter. I shall be only too pleased to see him."

A family spokesman said: "Optimism is not a word that applies, but there appears to be real movement." The Richter household was also happy at the improvement in the condition of his 17-year-old daughter, Jeanne, who was knocked down by a car near their home in Kew, west London.

Britain has made clear that freedom for Mr Richter, who was jailed for life in 1986 on bribery charges, would result in the freeing of some of Iraq's frozen assets in this country to allow the purchase of food and medicine.

But the foreign office yesterday reacted coolly to a Baghdad suggestion that Iraqi banknotes, printed in Britain, should be released. "The British government is determined to use all means possible to secure the release of Ian Richter," a statement said.

"This does not mean that we contemplate a weakening of the sanctions regime or a deal. We do not haggle over the future of innocent

Diary, page 12

## Prince resigns as patron over museum architects

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Prince of Wales has resigned as president of the National Museums of Scotland over the selection of architects for a new museum in Edinburgh. The group was set up last year to raise money for the project.

The prince believes the public should have had a greater role in choosing the winning design and Buckingham Palace said yesterday that he had made his misgivings known when the selection process began last October.

The announcement was made after telephone calls between Buckingham Palace and the museum yesterday resulting in a statement minutes before a press conference giving the winner.

The statement said: "While respecting the trustees' decision to follow the open competition procedure, his Royal Highness has on more than one occasion expressed his concern that due weight be given to non-professional opinion, as well as to professional judgment, about

the design of an important public building on this sensitive site in such a great city. As president of the patrons, His Royal Highness asked to be kept informed of developments on a regular basis.

"By the nature of the competitive process adopted it has not been possible for His Royal Highness to take as active a role as he would have wished in commenting upon the design concept for the building."

The palace, however, made it clear that the prince's decision did not reflect on the worthiness of the winners, Benson and Forsyth. An exhibition of the six finalists' designs was opened at the museum only yesterday after the winner was made public. It is understood that the prince saw only the work of these six in designs sent to him.

The Museum of Scotland is to be built on a site next to the present Royal Museum of Scotland. The Marquess of

Bute, chairman of the museum trustees, denied there had been insufficient consultation with non-architects. Half the selection committee of eight, which was chaired by the architect Sir Philip Dowson, were lay people. He conceded, however, that "there may have been a breakdown of communication with the prince". He said there would be more consultation in the next two years to finalise the design which he expected would change considerably.

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Leading article, page 13

Business news, page 19

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## Sky-high rodents hijack Air India's jumbos

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI



Ganesh: wise and prudent god with his trusty rodent

THE Indian government pledged yesterday to kill rats that have been delaying Air India flights, despite concern among Hindus who regard rodents as holy. Madhavrao Scindia, the civil aviation minister, told parliament that flights to London, Tokyo and New York had been held up when rats had been discovered on board, although aircraft were fumigated regularly and traps laid.

The aviation industry regards rats as one of the greatest dangers to airline safety, as they can chew through control cables and electrical circuits. An airline official in India said that most carriers would practically take an aircraft apart to check for damage once a rat had been discovered. "They can go where no man can reach. If they get into the electrical bay, you have got big trouble."

Mr Scindia said that one Bombay-bound Air India flight from the Middle East had returned after take-off when rats were discovered on board, and the plane was changed. Rat-control measures were carried out regularly in hangars, buildings where on-board meals were prepared, and in canteen lifts.

Some Hindus regard rodents as holy because Ganesh, the elephant-headed god and the most popular in the Hindu pantheon, uses a rodent as his steed. Most Indians, however, fight rats as vigorously as anybody else, particularly at this time of year, when the monsoon drives them out of deluged drains and sewers and into houses. Even so, many prefer to use traps that do not injure the creatures, so that they can be released unharmed.

Food preparation can be a headache

for international airlines operating in India. In Bombay, for example, food is prepared in premises surrounded by rat-infested slums. "These catering buildings are oases of cleanliness, but rats can gnaw through walls," an international airline official said. "It is difficult to seal them. The jhuggis (slum huts) are only 500 yards away. Our main concern is safety, not hygiene, although that is also a serious worry. A rat on an aircraft can create havoc."

As well as being a centre for international airlines, Bombay is the place where Ganesh is most worshipped. There is a huge annual festival in his honour, which creates a certain indulgence towards mice and rats among slum dwellers, some of whom happen to work in airline catering establishments. Ganesh is the god of wisdom and prudence.

### TODAY IN THE TIMES

#### WHO, US?



The British read a lot but don't wash too much. But will the book that Giuseppe Severgnini has written wash with the British? Page 10

#### TEST OF NERVE



Cherry Rawlands knows all sides of that anxious summer occupation, waiting for exam results. A parents' guide Page 10

#### SET REACTION



Michael Grade says that blaming television for myriad problems from junk food to terrorism is just passing the buck Page 12

#### EMIGRÉS RETURN



Banking on his legitimacy as a popularly elected leader, Boris Yeltsin is ready to welcome up to 800 emigrants to the "new" Soviet Union Page 8

#### HOME NEWS



Anita Roddick is to launch a monthly newspaper organised by London's homeless in aid of the homeless Page 3

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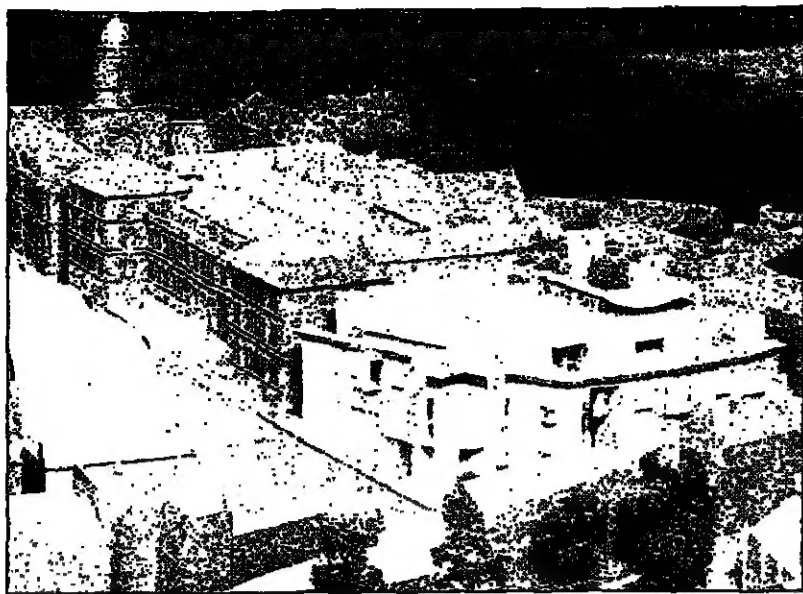
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# Shape of Scotland's museum for 21st century is unveiled



Top design: the winning design for the new Museum of Scotland, from the London practice of Benson & Forsyth

THE shape of Edinburgh's monument to the Scottish nation was revealed yesterday with the announcement that the winning architects for the new Museum of Scotland will come from the little-known London practice of Benson & Forsyth.

The new museum which will narrate the nation's development in industry, social history, politics, archaeology and antiquities, is to be built next to the 130-year-old Royal Museum in Edinburgh's Chambers Street, which houses an international collection equating more to the British Museum in London in its scope. The Museum of Scotland will open in 1997 largely at the cost of the taxpayer and become the eighth member of the National Museums of Scotland, the group created in 1985.

The Marquess of Bute, chairman of the trustees of the National Museums of Scotland, said: "We need an adequate museum to reflect our history and contain the extensive collections we have accumulated over the years." Sir

## Simon Tait reports on the winning architects in the hotly-contested commission to design a new museum of Scotland in central Edinburgh

Philip Dowson, the modernist architect who chaired the selection committee, said that the new museum would be Edinburgh's Burrell — the Burrell museum in Glasgow, designed by Barry Gasson ten years ago, has praised for its architecture and its practicality.

However, the physical resemblance will be slight. The Benson & Forsyth scheme will borrow from the ancient architecture of the city of Edinburgh, including the Venetian gothic of the Royal Museum, with which it will share an entrance to the medieval grandeur of Edinburgh.

Gordon Benson, the Glasgow-born former professor of architecture at Strathclyde university, said: "The building will draw on a history which surrounds it but is also a building for

our time, hinging on the 21st century."

The Museum of Scotland will supersede the Museum of Scottish Antiquities in Queen Street, founded in 1780. As well as housing the contents of the antiquities museum and many objects languishing in store because of the lack of exhibition space, the Museum of Scotland will relieve congestion in the Royal Museum.

The cost of the new museum is being largely borne by the Scottish Office and was yesterday put at £27.5 million, with another £5 million having to be raised from the private sector for fitting out. But the true cost is likely to be nearer £40 million.

□ The Benson and Forsyth proposal is a powerfully sculptural design in the manner of late Corbusier and certain art

musicians in the South of France (Marcus Binney, Architecture Correspondent, writes). Though an extension, it is conceived architecturally as a completely independent structure, creating a trio of monumental buildings along Chambers Street, with Robert Adam's university building and the original 1861 museum.

As is evident from the new National Gallery extension in London, modern museum buildings tend to have very few external windows. Here, there are have been expressed as powerful projections, each apparently focusing on a particular building or view outside, complementing the carefully placed Scottish icons on show within.

A very large rotunda will announce the building to the thousands of shoppers who throng the high street 200 yards away, giving the museum a focus it has hitherto lacked.

Prices' criticism, page 1  
Leading article, page 13

## Campaign against pricing cartels gathers support

By TONY DAWES

COUNTY councils are joining the campaign to seek legal redress from companies who operate price cartels.

Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire, who believe they have paid hundreds of thousands of pounds too much for ready-mixed concrete used on major roads, are gathering evidence in order to recover damages from the offending companies in the High Court.

The counties' action follows Manchester City Council's decision to recover the extra £124,000 it has paid for glass for council homes and offices because of a cartel operating among the suppliers. As reported in *The Times* yesterday, Manchester wants to mount a joint court action with other metropolitan authorities which have suffered losses.

Behind the growing rush to judgment, however, lies a mounting disquiet that the authorities are being forced to spend public money because the Government's agencies

lack the power to challenge offenders themselves.

The Office of Fair Trading, which uncovered the concrete and glass cartels, has obtained undertakings in the Restrictive Practices court from the companies that they will end the cartels. The companies can only be fined, however, if they repeat the offences, and only a few have been caught doing so.

Northamptonshire believes it has been a victim of one of the 65 ready-mixed concrete cartels operating extensively throughout Britain. It has spent millions on ready-mixed concrete in recent years, including £500,000 on a flyover and £250,000 on bridges for a by-pass. Senior county officials will meet this week to assess the latest evidence on how much they have been overcharged by the concrete suppliers, which include two major national companies, RMC and ARC.

Jeffrey Greenwell, the county's chief executive, said yesterday: "This is a case of

public money being lost. Had it not been spent on over-priced concrete, it could either have been returned to the ratepayers or used on other road schemes. If we can assemble the evidence, my council is absolutely determined to seek to recover the losses in full."

He added that it was unsatisfactory for companies to have a free bite at price-fixing and that their activities should only become illegal when they repeat the offence. On the other hand, those who have been defrauded are left to spend many hours on research in order to seek civil remedies. "Local authorities do feel that the OFT has one hand tied behind its back compared with the trust-busting activities of the European Commission's DG4 department."

The department has the powers to raid companies suspected of price-fixing. It has also handed out multi-million pound fines to companies found guilty of European-wide frauds, among them ICI and British Steel.

The problem of seeking damages under British law was highlighted yesterday by Jeff Gaskell, purchasing director for Buckinghamshire county council, which may have lost substantial amounts because of the concrete cartels.

Mr Gaskell, also vice-chairman of the association of county suppliers officers, said: "We have to ask ourselves, is it worth the time and money necessary to gather the evidence? After all, poll-tax payers want value for money. But if we take the moral view, we should go to court."

Manchester seems determined to take action. The council announced yesterday that the price of glass has dropped significantly since the cartels were uncovered. It also estimates that it has paid at least £124,000 over the odds to companies belonging to the Heywood Williams Group over three years.

Ken Barnes, chairman of the city's direct works committee, said that the effect of the glass cartel had been to reduce funds for other priority work. "The individuals directly affected by this reduction in available funds would have been council tenants and users of council-owned buildings like school children and aged people," he said. "If it is shown that the people of Manchester have been exploited, then we will go to whatever lengths are necessary in order to make good the losses."

"Within a couple of decades there will be very few decayed teeth in the bulk of the population," Martin Curzon, professor of child dental health and preventive dentistry at Leeds University, says in *Changing Horizons in Dentistry*, published by the makers of Crest toothpaste.

The report predicts new methods of delivering fluoride, such as microscopic pills in toothpaste designed to break up during brushing, preventing caries developing. A device that releases a constant amount of fluoride for up to two years from a glass pellet or disc fixed to the teeth with resin is undergoing trials.



A tooth getting a plastic sealant to prevent decay

## Fate sealed for tooth decay

By THOMAS PRENTICE  
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

TOOTH decay, the most common disease in the Western world, will all but vanish in the next 25 years, according to a report published today.

New forms of toothpaste may incorporate microscopic pills containing fluoride and anti-bacterial ingredients, the report says. Fillings will be replaced by paint-on sealants, and dentists will concentrate on repairing breakages and teaching patients how to brush their teeth.

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## Private firm to help set poll tax

By DOUGLAS BROOM  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative council in the Henley-on-Thames constituency of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, is to privatise part of its operation for setting the poll tax in a test of proposals outlined in the citizen's charter.

It calls for private firms to be allowed to tender for the work of town hall finance departments to promote greater efficiency and to cut costs. South Oxfordshire district council said yesterday that it had awarded a £28,000 contract to Touche Ross to produce its spending estimates for next year, which will form the basis for setting the poll tax.

The decision was taken at a private meeting of the council's competitive tendering board and has yet to be reported to full council. Work on the one-year contract, which involves payments of up to £225 a day plus the £28,000 fee, has begun.

The deal was disclosed yesterday by David Blunkett, Labour's local government spokesman, who published a leaked council report setting out the details. He said the contract would be taken out of the hands of democratically accountable officers.

He also criticised the council for not accepting the lowest bid. Eight were received and the cheapest, £15,000 a year, was submitted by the council's own finance department. A bid from KPMG Peat Marwick at £20,500 with payments of up to £140 an hour for additional work was also rejected.

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Knights' errand: Eric Mahringer (left) and his brother Kurt, from Austria, on their way to Buckingham Palace yesterday to apologise to the Queen for their countrymen's looting of Richard the Lionheart in 1193

## 'Mr Fix-It' takes control of prisons

The troubled prison service comes under a new chief today, with high hopes pinned on him, Quentin Cowdry writes

MINISTERS' hopes of curing the demon in the Home Office prison department, source of many embarrassments over the past 18 months, fall today on the shoulders of Joe Pilling, a brilliant civil servant noted as a "Mr Fix-It".

In theory, Mr Pilling's promotion to director-general of the prison service places him nicely to rise, in say five years' time, to permanent secretary of a ministry. However, the Home Office, as Kenneth Baker is finding, is stage on which many a talent tumbles.

If anything, the mountain facing Mr Pilling is higher than the ones that confronted predecessors. After the jail riots of spring 1990 and the recent escape of two IRA suspects from Brixton prison, morale in his department could not be worse.

Ministers claim that the answer lies in tougher security for category A prisoners, and penal reform on a broader front. Mr Pilling, who succeeds Christopher Train, who



Pilling: prison chief knows his subject

is retiring six months early, can be sure that ministers are truthful on the first count, but will find it harder to assess commitment on the second.

The grammar school educated Mr Pilling - at 45, the youngest director-general to date - knows the prison system and ministerial temperament. Most of his 23-year Whitehall career has been with the Home Office and he has done two spells in the private offices of ministers.

As director of personnel and finance with the prison department from 1987 to 1990, he implemented the Fresh Start package, which improved prison officer productivity and reduced "Spanish practices". Mr Pilling won the respect of the Prison Officers' Association and a reputation for being able to steer a path through the choppiest waters.

## Morning story gets an afternoon slot

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

MORNING Story, the Radio 4 institution which for more than 40 years has inspired many a listener to put pen to paper in the hope that their own story will be broadcast, is being cancelled next month to make way for the new 10.30am Woman's Hour.

In its place will be Short Story, a new late-afternoon series starting September 16 which will rely far more on classics and special commissions from established writers than what Duncan Minshall, BBC Radio's short story editor, described yesterday as a "slush pile of doily and awkward stories sent in by hopeful housewives."

"We want to provide the audience with what they want, not the standard predictable and parochial stories about life at the bottom of the garden," Mr Minshall said, adding that the new series will use only "the very best of the slush pile." He said that Morning Story received 120 unsolicited stories a week, 40 per cent of which come from women. About six or seven get broadcast each year.

Michael Green, Radio 4 controller, yesterday described the cancellation and replacement of Morning Story, the rescheduling of the regular Afternoon Play and the switch of Woman's Hour to the morning from its traditional afternoon slot as "the

single most important change in daytime schedules" in Radio 4's history. Although the BBC is still receiving letters of complaint about its decision ten years ago to cancel Storytime, its old afternoon short story programme, Mr Green said he believed rather conservative Radio 4 listeners would soon appreciate the changes.

The afternoon play, which moves forward an hour from 3pm to 2pm, features the space drama *Tiger Tiger*, based on Alfred Bester's 1950s cult novel, as well as a major production of Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*.

Bonnie Langford also makes her radio drama debut in second series of plays based on the characters of the artist Toulouse-Lautrec. *Posters of Montmartre*, by John Peacock, follows the success of his previous series *Posters of the Moulin Rouge*. A science fiction season begins later this month with a new dramatisation of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. Tom Courteney will make a rare late appearance in *Flowers for Algernon* and a series of Sherlock Holmes stories starts in the New Year.

*Woman's Hour*, which keeps its serial, will also be repeated for a six-month test period starting January on the AM frequency at 7.20 each evening during the week.

## Hunger striker's appeal

A woman jailed for life for murdering her violent husband appealed directly yesterday to Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, to review her sentence. In a letter to the Home Office, Sarah Thornton urged Mr Baker to re-open her case in the name of justice.

Thornton, aged 35, began a hunger strike 11 days ago at Bullwood Hall prison, Essex, after learning that a man who had killed his bullying and alcoholic wife had been given a two-year suspended sentence.

Two weeks ago, the Court of Appeal refused to reduce Thornton's conviction for murder to one of manslaughter. She had pleaded that she had killed her husband in a rage having been regularly beaten and abused by him.

In her letter, Thornton, from Atherstone, Warwickshire, described the man's sentencing as "nothing less than a slap in the face for women". She said that she had received a life sentence "simply to satisfy the arrogance of Britain's 'outdated and hypocritical judiciary'".

The chances of such a case being referred again to the appeal court are slight. Mr Baker, however, may see fit to bring forward the date at which parole might be considered. Thornton's condition was described by the Home Office as "good".

## Major back from Spain

The prime minister returned to Britain yesterday after a ten-day holiday in Spain. Although he has a few ministerial meetings planned for this week, he will spend the rest of his holiday period either at Chequers or in his Huntingdon constituency.

Mr Major wants to meet John McCarthy, the freed hostage currently undergoing tests at RAF Lyneham, Wiltshire, but a senior Whitehall source said that the prime minister would not put pressure on Mr McCarthy for as early meeting.

## Youth charged

A youth aged 15 from Swansea appeared before the city's juvenile court yesterday, charged with the abduction of and an assault on Rebecca McBride, aged six, also from Swansea. Her body was found on Monday in a lake near Ammanford, Dyfed. She had been missing since Sunday. Police said that the cause of the death was drowning. The youth was remanded in police custody.

## Saved by foot

A man trapped in his burning house after he unscrewed his false floor, Christopher McGill, 27, crawled out of his Ford Escort clutching part of his leg after a collision in Basingstoke, Hants.

## Road chaos 'hitting UK economy'

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE management of Britain's motorways and trunk roads needs to be radically reformed, according to a report published yesterday by the Institution of Highway and Transportation.

Traffic congestion, uncoordinated road works, and administrative delays will continue to impede Britain's economic performance until a national organisation responsible for managing key routes has been created to replace the existing decentralised system based on regional responsibilities, the report says.

In the first of a series of papers on Britain's transport dilemmas, the institution calls for the creation of an inter-urban transport forum with the authority to identify missing transport links and undertake a crash programme to provide them. The forum

would assume responsibility for Britain's motorway, trunk road, and mainline rail routes, thereby replacing the existing division of responsibilities between the transport department, the Scottish and Welsh Offices, the regional and local highway authorities.

Although Britain's motorway and primary route network accounts for 7 per cent of the national road system, which is responsible for 45 per cent of total vehicle mileage travelled, "little information is known about these roads", the report says.

"Statistics tend to be collected on roads defined by administrative responsibilities, in contrast to other countries, such as France," it adds. As a result, there is no official definition of what constitutes traffic congestion within the UK, and "no data

on its magnitude, geographical extent or even whether it is increasing or decreasing," the report says.

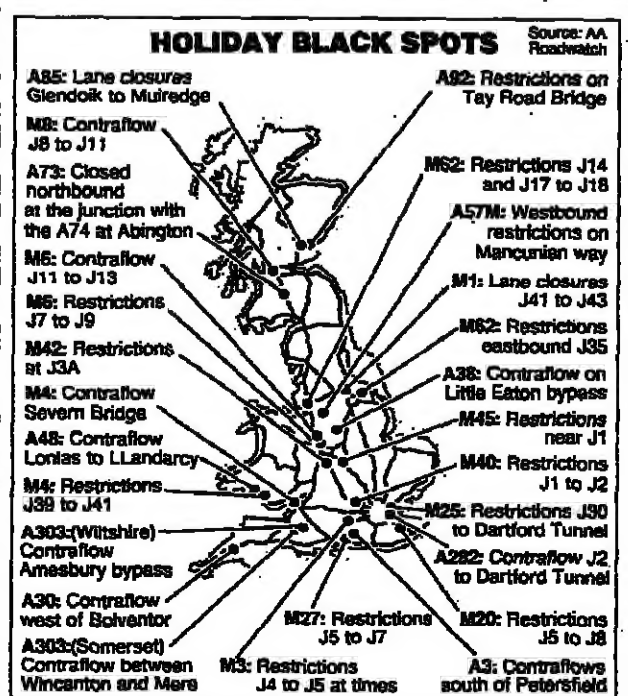
Demands for some form of national body to assume responsibility for motorways and trunk roads have increased considerably over the past 12 months, particularly from industry and transport organisations which have become increasingly irritated over the confusion and delays caused by the present decentralised system.

Citing one example of poor management, Garry Turvey, the director general of the Freight Transport Association, says that five separate sets of road works were carried out on the A1, between London and Edinburgh by the transport department last October, bringing the road to a virtual standstill. When asked

to explain the high level of maintenance, transport officials denied that so many repairs were being carried out simultaneously, not because they were trying to cover up the scale of the programme, but because they did not know what their regional offices were doing. Mr Turvey says.

The European Community now accounts for 70 per cent of Britain's imports and exports by value. Reliable, efficient and fast links to key connections with the continent are crucial if Britain's economy is to enjoy the benefits promised by the single European market, the report says.

*Traffic Congestion on the Inter-urban Road Network* (Institution of Highway and Transportation, 3 Lyons Place, Bury Street, London, SW1W 0US; £5)





## Young homeless

## £3m scheme to stop youngsters running away from home to London

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

A SCHEME to help prevent youngsters running away from home to the "bright lights" of London was launched by Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, yesterday.

Mrs Bottomley gave details of 14 projects which will share £3 million over three years as part of the Single Homeless Young People Initiative.

The projects, run by local authorities and voluntary organisations and centred mainly in cities nationwide, are being set up to help the homeless and those at risk of homelessness, such as people leaving care. They include: a

16-bed "returning home" hostel in Manchester for young people already in London or likely to move there; a drop-in centre in Bolton; a referral system for vulnerable young people in Ipswich; 12 single flats with 24-hour support in Southend; an accommodation register and crisis centre for food and clothing in Crawley and a scheme to help young women who have been sexually abused to find accommodation in Bradford.

Organisations and councils were invited to bid for the £3 million in January. Yesterday Mrs Bottomley said that 14 projects, four more than originally expected, had been approved out of over 100 applications. Each is expected to get up to £90,000 a year for three years.

"It is a tragedy that so many people become separated from their home communities and find themselves vulnerable and homeless on the streets of London," Mrs Bottomley said. "This will enable many of them to avoid having to sleep rough and provide them with the opportunity to establish a settled way of life through reconciliation with their families or through setting up home on their own."

Charities for the homeless welcomed the initiative but said it did not go far enough.

Nick Hardwick, director of Centrepunkt, said that increasingly towns and cities all over the country had groups of young people sleeping rough.

and begging for food. Many were 16- and 17-year-olds who had left care and an increasing number were women, he said.

Two-thirds of London's young homeless came from outside the capital. "It's up to local agencies in small towns to provide the service that will stop them from coming here in the first place."

The Children's Society estimates there are 150,000 homeless 16 to 19 year olds in Britain. About 64,000 people in London are homeless, of whom 13,500 are in hostels. A third of these are under 25, the society says.

The charity Shelter stressed the money was primarily for short-stay accommodation and would do little to solve the long-term problems.

Sheila McKee, director of Shelter, said benefits to 16- and 17-year-olds had to be fully restored and levels for those between 18 and 25 improved to stop the problem growing.

London's homeless are to get their own newspaper next month. The Big Issue, a monthly tabloid initiated by Anita and Gordon Roddick of the Body Shop, will be sold by the homeless in aid of the homeless (Melinda Wittstock writes).

About 100 of London's 75,000 homeless will work in specially trained teams of five, keeping 40p of the 50p cover price of each paper sold. The remaining 10p will go to housing and training organisations to cover administrative expenses associated with courses for its vendors.

The Big Issue, aimed at 18 to 35-year-olds and devoted to social and environmental issues of the day, will devote all profits from advertising and sponsorship to train homeless people as writers, photographers, designers, computer operators and office workers.

The full-colour tabloid, which has already secured 12 pages of advertising at full market rates, expects to be making a profit by November, when it will begin channelling its homeless vendors into courses.



Roddick: launching monthly newspaper for homeless

## Call by peers for youth minister

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A GROUP of peers today appeals for fresh government and EC policies to reach the under-class of deprived youngsters living on the margins of society.

The shifting tribe of unemployed, homeless, poorly educated young people, who often become anti-social or criminal, threatens social cohesion and integration in Europe, the Lords' EC committee says in its report *Young People in the European Community*. In Britain, the peers suggest appointing either a minister of state or a ministerial group to deal with youth matters. An EC council of youth ministers should also be set up.

The committee says that some of the Community's population of 130 million under 25 face multiple problems, usually provoked by lack of basic education. They were caught in a vicious circle as they had trouble finding

permanent jobs, housing, health care and organised leisure. The peers seek a co-ordinated effort "to help young people in the transition from school to adulthood, the world of work and family formation".

Witnesses told the committee that more homeless, unemployed youngsters could drift around European cities as the community's barriers are dismantled.

The committee, chaired by Lady Lockwood, says all who gave evidence "stressed that the programmes had not yet done enough to reach disadvantaged young people". The peers interviewed 15 to 20 officials from government departments covering policies for young people.

*Young People in the European Community*, House of Lords European Communities select committee report (Stationery Office; £9.80)

## BIG END N YORKS



Watering the beer: an official soaks towels placed on barrels to keep prize exhibits cool at the seventeenth annual festival run by the Campaign for Real Ale. Peter Manderson's Black Adder dark brew was pronounced champion beer among the 200 tipples at the event which opened yesterday at the London

Arena in Docklands (Peter Victor writes). Over 100,000 pints await the 30,000 people expected to attend the week-long event. Festival officials were pleased yesterday to confirm the demise of one regular attendee: the Cairns "beer monster", a legendary figure with his hallmark huge belly.

## Murdered girl might have known killer

By PETER DAVENPORT

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of Angela Flaherty, aged seven, said yesterday that she might have known her killer. Her father made an emotional appeal for help in catching her attacker.

Senior officers said that they had been inundated with calls from the public and many people had approached officers in the street offering information.

Angela's body was found during a police search on Sunday hidden in a den, a popular haunt for local children, near her home in Rawthorpe, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Her parents had reported her missing on the previous day.

One of her sisters had last seen her at 6pm on Saturday riding her pink bicycle, a present for her seventh birthday last year. Police disclosed yesterday, however, that a witness had since come forward who recalls seeing the girl at 7.20pm.

Detective Superintendent Peter Bottomley, in charge of the murder enquiry, appealed yesterday for anyone who may have been walking on the wasteland overlooking the Huddersfield Town football club ground, where Angela's body was discovered by a police dog handler, to come forward.

Angela was sexually assaulted before being beaten to death, possibly with a brick or stone. A post mortem revealed that she had died of a frac-

tured skull. A detailed search of the site where her body was found was completed yesterday and police removed several possible murder weapons.

Mr Bottomley said there was a strong possibility that Angela had been enticed away to her death as she played near her home and that police believe she might have known her killer.

Her father Martin Flaherty, aged 35, a building worker, appeared at a press conference yesterday to appeal for help in catching his daughter's killer. Shaking with emotion and visibly close to tears, Mr Flaherty said: "If anyone has any information, no matter how small, please tell the police and help us to catch this beast."

"I want to see him caught so badly. I can't explain what I feel inside. I just want to get this thing caught and get it over with. Then we can get back to normal."

Mr Flaherty added: "We should be able to let our children go out to play without this kind of thing happening."

Asked how his family was coping, Mr Flaherty said: "We're not really coping, we're just trying the best we can. It's all so unbelievable. We can't understand what's happening."

Last night police confirmed that a number of suspects had been questioned in connection with the murder.

## Police call for calm as clashes follow death of airgun man

By RONALD FAUX

POLICE in Shropshire appealed for calm yesterday after angry disturbances followed the death of Ian Gordon, shot by police marksmen in Wellington early on Monday after he threatened them with a gun.

David Blakey, acting chief constable of the West Mercia force, met representatives of the West Indian community in Telford and later said that although he understood people's feelings, the incident was no excuse for law-breaking.

Early yesterday, windows at Wellington police station were smashed by youths throwing stones, and later, in Hadley, an area of Telford with a large ethnic population, about 100 young people, some masked, threw stones and petrol bombs at police vehicles. Two police dog handlers were cut by flying glass. No one was arrested.

Mr Blakey said the shooting of Ian Gordon, who proved to be armed with an unloaded air pistol, was an unusual incident and the subject of an independent enquiry led by Clive Atkinson, assistant chief constable of Merseyside. Police officers were thoroughly trained in the use of firearms, Mr Blakey said, and he had every faith in their professionalism.

"I understand the concern that friends of Mr Gordon must have, but this is not an excuse for vandalism or the sort of rowdiness we saw last night and I would appeal to them to wait and listen and

hear the results of the full independent enquiry," Mr Blakey said. "I would hope there would be no further disorder. If there is, then, of course, my officers will have to deal with it accordingly."

The appeal for calm was repeated by Bruce Crockett, Labour MP for The Wrekin, who visited Hadley and Wellington yesterday.

## Violence belies image of rural calm

By WILLIAM CASH

DESPITE the county's tranquil rural image, Ian Gordon's confrontation with police is only the latest in a series of violent incidents in Shropshire in recent years.

The partially clothed body of a Wolverhampton prostitute, Janine Downes, was found dumped in a lay-by on the A464 near Telford in February. She had been strangled and sexually assaulted.

Armed robbery in Telford has risen sharply this year and included an armed raid on a nightclub. Inspector Terry Lowe, police community relations officer in Telford, says that the new town lacks any real heart and is disliked by other West Mercia officers.

The town is thought to have little character.

In 1984 a young gang planted booby traps in playgrounds. Razor blades were embedded in slides and broken glass jammed in climbing frames.

In 1975 the Black Panther, alias Donald Neilson, murdered the 17-year-old heiress Lesley White, who lived in the village of Highley.

In 1984, Don Davies, who owned a petrol station a few miles from Telford died after a struggle with a rider who tried to steal £10,000.

In 1987 Simon Dale, the former husband of Baroness Susan de Stempel was found battered to death on the kitchen floor of her mansion at Heath House in Hopton Heath in Shropshire. She was charged with his murder and acquitted in 1989.

In 1988 a nationwide hunt was launched by police for a farm labourer, David Evans, after the killing of 15-year-old Anna Humphries who lived in Hampton Wood, Ellesmere, in north Shropshire. He was arrested in France and jailed for life.

## Tenants victims of sharp practice

By CHRISTOPHER WARMAN, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

LEASEHOLD tenants are still suffering from sharp practice by landlords and managing agents in spite of measures in the 1987 landlord and tenant act that strengthened their rights, according to an environment department survey.

A report on the survey, studying the effect of the act, says that although tenants and landlords generally approved the legislation tenants felt there were grey areas or loopholes that could lead to sharp practice. They expressed particular concern about repairs, service charges, lack of consultation, difficulty in obtaining accounts and insurance.

Under the act, long leaseholders of privately owned flats in England and Wales gained greater rights regarding management and service charges, and were given the right of first refusal allowing them to buy their block if the landlords wanted to sell.

The evidence of the report suggests support for the government's latest proposals, announced last month, for the right of tenants to buy the freehold of their flats and for the introduction of a system of commonhold under which they share the common parts of the property and manage it themselves.

Tim Yeo, environment minister, said that a main concern of long leaseholders was bad management. "Plans announced by the government for a new scheme of land and property ownership called commonhold should help to sort out many of their difficulties," Mr Yeo said. "As part of the scheme, long leaseholders in blocks of flats will be given the right to buy the freehold interest."

## Mar Lodge estate may be saved for nation

By KERRY GILL

THE first firm sign that the government will back a move to take Mar Lodge, the 77,000-acre Highland estate with some of the most important wilderness areas in Western Europe, into public ownership emerged last night.

Government officials met conservationists, who are anxious to have the unique estate taken over on behalf of the nation, at the Scottish Office in Edinburgh. The meeting was held on the initiative of Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, who has been persuaded that Mar Lodge, close to Balmoral Castle on Deeside, should not fall into the hands of a private owner.

Although the question of a government grant towards a purchase did not arise, conservationist groups including the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Chris Brasher Trust are confident that Treasury money eventually will be made available.



Mar Lodge, said to have some of the most significant wilderness areas in Europe

The three groups have pledged £5 million towards buying the estate, said to be on offer for £10 million. Simon Pepper, the WWF's conservation officer for Scotland, said: "It was a very useful meeting, more useful

than we might have expected. "We were very encouraged that the Scottish Office are taking a keen interest in what should happen. They expressed common cause that it should be secured in the

public interest. Another meeting will be held later this month. In attendance was Gavin McCrone, Scottish environment department secretary, and Magnus Magnusson, chairman of the Nature Conservancy Coun-

cil, Scotland, as well as the three conservation groups. Mr Pepper added: "The government is keen to do what it can to help. They listened very carefully to our case and this time the question of private ownership did not arise."

The estate, which was put on sale by John Kluge, its American billionaire owner, contains five of the highest peaks in Scotland including Ben Macdui, at 4,296 feet. The mountains are within the Cairngorm plateau, claimed to be the best remaining wilderness area in the United Kingdom. The estate is almost entirely a national scenic area.

The lodge was commissioned by Queen Victoria for one of her grandchildren and the estate contains some of the ancient Caledonian pine forest. Golden eagles, peregrine falcons, merlins, snow bunting, capercaillie and the Scottish crossbill can be spotted within its huge acreage.

Its plateau area has some of the most important flora and fauna in the EC.

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## Teer

The lack of an understanding by women of many health trends will do more to harm them than prevent them. Education is essential.

A recent publisher says that although he is well informed about the campaign, he has changed the way he runs his business to a great extent.

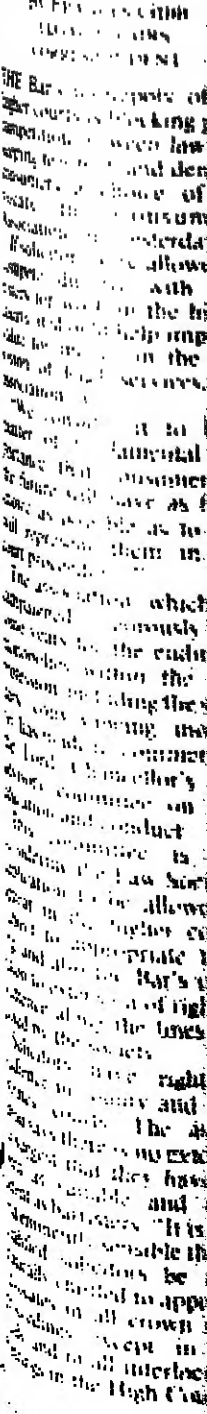
The findings of a study suggest that the use of HIV and AIDS in such campaigns will need to be carefully dealt with by the next young generation of public relations people.

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**CONSUMER**

## Barristers monopoly criticised

**HALIFAX FINANCIAL PLANNING SERVICE.**

**OUR EXPERTISE IS UNDERSTANDABLE**

عبد الرحمن الراجحي



# Teenagers' pregnancy worries outweigh concern on Aids

THE risk of an unwanted pregnancy outweighs worries about Aids among many British teenagers, who think of safe sex in terms of contraception rather than preventing infection, the Health Education Authority said yesterday.

A report published by the authority shows that although teenagers have been well informed about Aids by government campaigns, they generally have not changed their sexual attitudes or behaviour as a result.

The findings of a survey included in the report suggest that attempts to limit the spread of HIV among young adults through such campaigns will be difficult and will need to be pursued over many years, with no guarantee of success.

"To most young adults, safer sex means taking precautions against preg-

nancy, not minimising the risk of Aids," the authority said yesterday. "As a result, their use of condoms declines with age, as they rely more on the pill as a better contraceptive. Many use condoms when they first become sexually active, but the majority switch to the pill once they establish a regular relationship."

The report, *The Sexual Health Of Young Adults In England*, is based on questioning of 4,436 people aged 16 to 19, interviewed in their homes by Mori last year.

Researchers found that while 56 per cent of sexually active, 16-year-old girls used condoms, that proportion fell to 38 per cent among 19-year-old girls. The drop in usage by males fell from 77 per cent at 16 years old, to 47 per cent by 19.

"Safeguarding their health from HIV

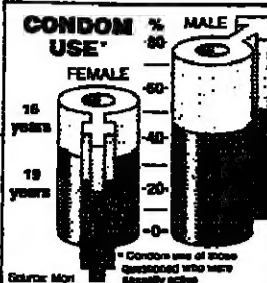
Better sex education in schools and the involvement of parents, doctors, health workers and others may be needed to combat Aids. Health campaigners say that promoting 'safe sex' will be a difficult but not impossible task, Thomson Prentice reports

or Aids came second to preventing pregnancy in their choice of contraception for most young adults," the authority said. "Sixty-two per cent of respondents, male and female, said the main thing they wanted from their method of protection was to prevent pregnancy." Only 19 per cent were concerned to protect against HIV.

Lindsay Neil, manager of the Health

Education Authority's HIV and Aids programme, denied that the survey results showed that government publicity campaigns had failed.

"They succeeded in raising public awareness, which was a crucial first step," she said. "Advertising alone was never likely to have an effect on behaviour. What is needed is better sex education in schools and the involve-



ment of parents, doctors, health workers and others. "We realise that changing behaviour is going to be very difficult and it will take time, but it is not an impossible task."

She said that sex education in schools should begin before the age of 15, by which time many pupils were sexually active. More than 40 per cent of those interviewed in the survey felt that coverage of Aids in school sex education classes had been inadequate.

The survey showed that 52 per cent of the teenagers had experienced sexual intercourse. While 72 per cent knew it was risky to have sex without a condom, a quarter were prepared to have unprotected sex with a new partner.

The HEA report includes two other studies, by London university

psychologists, of sexual attitudes among young adults. The researchers found resistance to "safer sex" education messages and to the use of condoms. The tendency among many of those interviewed was to see safety in terms of "safe" partners rather than safer practices.

A police chief yesterday defended a policy of storing computer files on Aids victims. John Burrow, chief constable of Essex, said that the information was vital to the safety of police officers who might come into contact with body fluids at scenes of crimes.

Mr Burrow said: "We owe it to our policemen on the streets to warn them of such dangers when and where they exist."

Protesters have called for the policy to be dropped because confidential information could be abused.

## Buses, trains and councils top list of public dislikes

By ROBIN YOUNG

LOCAL authorities, buses and British Rail generate more criticism and dissatisfaction than any other public services, according to a survey published today by the National Consumer Council to coincide with its annual report.

In the Mori survey, commissioned by the council and based on replies from 2,005 people, fewer than half the respondents were satisfied with their borough or district council, while almost a third said they were dissatisfied with its efforts. Only two out of five expressed satisfaction with their county council, while almost a quarter said they were dissatisfied.

Those ratings made local authorities even less popular with consumers than British Rail, just over half of whose passengers said they were satisfied with its overall service. Almost a third said they thought rail services needed

improvement. Consumers were more likely to be critical of British Rail than of any other public utility in the survey, and dissatisfaction among rail passengers is growing while other forms of transport are becoming more popular.

One in five passengers was dissatisfied with bus services, though only one in 20 complained about services provided by coach companies. More than two thirds were satisfied with the service on buses, but for coaches the satisfaction level reached 85 per cent.

Local government's worst failing in consumer eyes appeared to be road maintenance. Only one in three thought it was up to standard while well over half complained that it was below par. Nearly half were dissatisfied with footpath and street cleaning standards. However, eight

out of ten said they were satisfied with standards of refuse collection. Attitudes to schools varied widely, with those who had school-age children rating schools more highly than people as a whole, fewer than half of whom were happy about the standard of second and primary schools.

Most people were happy with services provided by the gas and electricity industries. Only 4 per cent were dissatisfied with their gas company, and 7 per cent with their electricity supplier.

Criticism of water companies, the telephone service and post office counter services was on average three times as frequent, though around three quarters of customers were satisfied with them, slightly more than in a similar survey last year.

Lady Wilcox, chairman of the National Consumer Council, said: "At a time when all three political parties are discussing ways of ensuring consumers get a better deal from public services, these findings are particularly important. There is no room for complacency. BR needs to find out why its customers are even more discontented about train services than they were last year, especially in the South, and then take all possible steps to put things right. This survey also shows local authorities have some hard work to do to improve their image with the public."

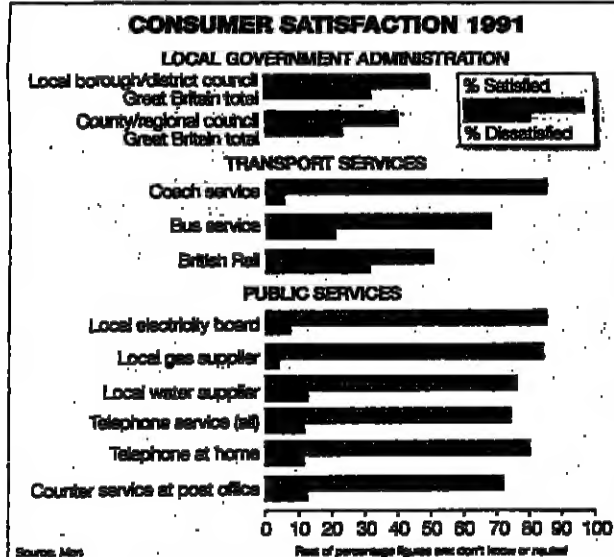
Councils should also be concerned that people were less likely to be satisfied with them than in 1986, when a similar survey was conducted, Lady Wilcox said.

Public utilities and local councils produced more favourable responses from consumers in Scotland, and people in rural areas generally had a more favourable attitude than customers in towns and cities, but Lady Wilcox said it was not clear whether that was because services tended to be better in the country or because those who lived there had lower expectations.

A Mori opinion poll for the Scottish Consumer Council found that 57 per cent of the 475 Scottish people questioned were satisfied with their district council and 46 per cent were happy with their regional council. However, nearly six out of ten Scots were dissatisfied with road maintenance in their area.

By contrast, 91 per cent of Scottish consumers expressed satisfaction with the supply of water services.

Consumer Concerns 1991 (NCC, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1 0DD; £5; NCC Annual Report 1991 available free from same address)



## Barristers' monopoly criticised

By FRANCES GIBB  
LEGAL AFFAIRS  
CORRESPONDENT

THE Bar's monopoly of the higher courts is blocking price competition between lawyers, keeping fees high and denying consumers a choice of advocate, the Consumers' Association said yesterday.

If solicitors were allowed to compete directly with barristers for work in the higher courts, it should help improve value for money in the provision of legal services, the association says.

"We consider it to be a matter of fundamental importance that consumers in the future will have as full a choice as possible as to who will represent them in any court proceedings."

The association, which has campaigned vigorously for some years for the ending of monopolies within the legal profession, including the solicitors' conveyancing monopoly, has made its comments to the Lord Chancellor's new advisory committee on legal education and conduct.

This committee is now considering the Law Society's application to be allowed to appear in the higher courts, subject to appropriate training, and also the Bar's opposition to extension of rights of audience along the lines proposed by the society.

Solicitors have rights of audience in county and magistrates' courts. The association says there is no evidence to suggest that they have not been as suitable and competent as barristers. "It is right and eminently sensible that all qualified solicitors be automatically entitled to appear as advocates in all crown court proceedings except in jury trials, and in all interlocutory hearings in the High Court."

## Taxpayer charter launched

By RICHARD FORD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TAX enquiry offices may open in the early evening and at weekends, under the taxpayer's charter launched yesterday as part of John Major's citizen's charter.

Tax forms are to be redesigned to make them easier to understand. Inland Revenue officials will publish targets for the time in which staff should deal with queries. However, the service is more circumspect on the subject of setting a time limit for paying refunds. "It may well be that a time limit for refunds will be one of the targets," Francis Maude, the financial secretary, said yesterday at the launch of the charter.

The charter aims to cut tax-jargon, set targets for the Inland Revenue and tell disgruntled taxpayers how to complain. Mr Maude said: "No tax collector is ever going to be popular. The taxpayer does not always find it comfortable having to pay tax but tax has to be paid. The citizen's charter is about citizenship in its widest sense. Citizenship includes responsibilities as well as rights."

Sir Anthony Battishall, chairman of the revenue's board, said: "The charter is not about compensation for bad service. This is about getting good service in the first place."

Joyce Quin, an Opposition trade spokesman, said: "What the government should be doing is to ensure a more efficient system of tax collection, not least to ensure that some of the £5 billion which is now consistently not collected does come to the Treasury so that they might spend it on some other more needy public service, such as health and education."



Moment to ponder: Ron Park, a judge at this year's Royal Horticultural Society's summer flower show at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, assessing a gladiolus yesterday. Show report, page 14

## Rifkind to reveal Marchioness facts

By LIN JENKINS

DETAILS of the causes of the Marchioness pleasure boat disaster, in which 51 people lost their lives, are to be made public two years after the tragedy.

Malcolm Rifkind, transport secretary, said yesterday the report by the Department of Transport's marine accident investigation branch would be published in the next few days despite the reservations of lawyers acting for Ivor Glogg, whose wife died in the disaster. They believe comment on the document could prejudice Mr Glogg's private criminal prosecution for manslaughter against the owners of the dredger Bowbelle.

Mr Rifkind said withholding publication was "no longer justified". Survivors and relatives of those who died have repeatedly called for a public enquiry.

Publication of the report had been delayed for fear it would prejudice a prosecution brought by the crown against the master of the Bowbelle, Douglas Henderson, for failing to keep a proper lookout. The case ended last month

when Mr Justice Boreham entered a verdict of not guilty at St Albans Crown Court after the trial had ended with the jury unable to agree. The outcome was the same as in an earlier trial at the Central Criminal Court.

Mr Rifkind said he had considered the views of Mr Glogg, lawyers acting for the owners of the Bowbelle, and four of the senior managers of the company. Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, and the DPP before making his decision. The inquiry into the deaths was adjourned to allow the case against Captain Henderson to continue, and is likely to be ended without hearing evidence after criminal proceedings are ended.

Billy Gorman, of the Marchioness Action Group, said: "We still want a public enquiry. The report has its limits. It never even looked at the response of the emergency services, which we believe was inadequate inasmuch as people died after being in the water for ages when they could have been rescued."

## Sir John to hand over black rod

By JOHN WINDER

THE man whose rape on the floor of the House of Commons has heralded the state opening of a new parliament for six years is bowing out. He will make his last appearance in November.

Air Chief Marshal Sir John Giggell, the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, retires in January to be succeeded by Admiral Sir Richard Thomas, UK representative to Nato since 1989, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday.

Sir Richard's appointment, which now encompasses that of Sergeant-at-Arms in the

Lords, follows the tradition that the post is occupied by a senior military officer.

Black Rod was originally an officer of the Order of the Garter, when it was founded in 1348. The rod is an emblem of the authority the holder exercised on behalf of the Crown. Defaulters were once tapped on the shoulder and fines demanded.

The most public duty of Black Rod is his role in state openings when his entry, as an officer of the Crown, is barred by the slamming of the doors of the Commons in his face to demonstrate the independence of the lower house. Black Rod knocks three times and is then admitted to deliver his royal message "commanding this honourable house to attend her Majesty immediately."

Each day, Black Rod precedes the Lord Chancellor in procession to the Chamber, carrying the mace. Behind the ceremonial lies a modern administrative job involving the security, accommodation and services provided for peers at Westminster.



Giggell: administrative job lies behind ceremonial role

## Firework firm fined over blast at factory

The Brock's fireworks firm was fined £1,700 yesterday for a breach of regulations that led to a worker, Alex Patterson, being injured by an explosion at its factory near Sanquhar, Dumfries, last October. Dumfries sheriff court was told he was using a machine to grind a fuel substance when the blast destroyed the building.

The machine, which had been used to grind another chemical, had not been cleaned, the court was told. When the two chemicals came into contact there was an explosion, which destroyed the building and injured Mr Patterson, of Echan Street, Sanquhar.

The court was told that the building was not licensed for the use of the two substances, but only for the storing and grinding of nitrates. Brock's admitted breaches of its explosives licence and of the Health and Safety at Work Act.

## Welsh Opera gets US chief

Matthew Epstein, a New Yorker, has been appointed general director of the Welsh National Opera to succeed Brian McMaster, who is leaving Wales to become director of the Edinburgh Festival. Mr Epstein takes up the post on August 28.

He is vice-president of Columbia Artists Management and artistic adviser to three American opera companies, in Chicago, Santa Fe and San Francisco. He has worked closely with the Welsh National Opera in the past, inaugurating the company's American tour in 1989 and adjudicating the Cardiff singer of the world competition.

## Kidnap plot charge

Shane Snelling, aged 18, a mechanic, of Campion Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, was remanded for a week by magistrates at Colchester, accused of conspiracy to kidnap after the abduction of the family of James Andrews, a Tesco store manager, earlier this month.

Mr Snelling was appearing for the second time. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

## Rail death

A railway inspector, Kenneth Freeman, aged 63, of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, was crushed to death by a goods train at the Rudland aggregates quarry at Barrow upon Soar, Leicestershire.

## Jail paintings

The Prince of Wales is lending one of his landscape paintings to hang outside a prisoner's cell at Dorchester prison as part of an art exhibition travelling to jails around the country.

## Saying sorry

Anthony Wilcox, an American businessman who was robbed twice during a visit to Liverpool, was the guest of the city's lord mayor at lunch to help him to recover from Sunday's attacks. He was also given a painting of the tall ships' race of 1984.

## Bogus call

A police car was set on fire after a constable was lured to a housing estate at Shoburyness, Essex, by a bogus emergency call to a disturbance. Petrol was poured over the vehicle and set alight.

## Children banned

The Sheffield council flats that formed part of the athletes' village at the World Student Games are to be let only to childless couples over 35 because councillors believe that high-rise flats are unsuitable for families with school-aged children.

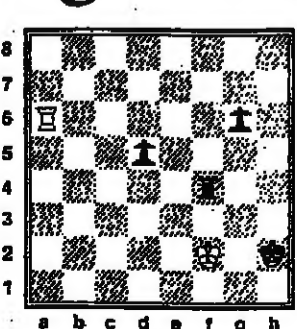
## Sparkling Short draws level in world chess

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

IN SPITE of his mauling in the first round, Nigel Short, Britain's top-ranked chess grandmaster, recovered brilliantly in the second round of his world chess championship qualifying match in Brussels to inflict a heavy defeat on his Russian opponent, Boris Gelfand.

After Monday's play and completion of 61 moves, Short stood to win in an end game in which he had two extra pawns. He needed just six more moves to finish off his Soviet opponent when the game resumed yesterday. On the 67th move, in a hopeless situation, in which he could not prevent the advance of the extra black pawns, the Russian resigned the game.

This result, after Short had



Final positions in Short's victory over Gelfand

played with the sparkle of his best days, will have done much to restore his confidence. The score in this best-of-eight series to decide the qualifier to meet Gary Kasparov in 1993 is now one point each to Gelfand and Short.

There has been sharp play in the other three quarter-finals in Brussels. In the

second game between Victor Korchnoi (Switzerland) and Jan Timman (The Netherlands), the Dutch grandmaster survived a bad opening to launch a crushing counter-attack that left Korchnoi with a lone knight against two bishops in an end game. Korchnoi immediately resigned. Timman leads by one and a half points to a half.

One of the favourites, the Russian grandmaster Vassily Ivanchuk has surprised supporters by losing in the second game against his fellow Russian, Artur Yusupov. Yusupov, playing with white, established a minute advantage that hardly seemed sufficient for a win. Nevertheless, brilliant sacrificial play by Yusupov in a board almost devoid of pieces led to the inevitable promotion to queen of one of his last pawns.

Yusupov now leads by one and a half to a half.

The match between the former world champion Anatoly Karpov (USSR) and the 22-year-old Indian, Viswanathan Anand, has been full of twists and turns. In the adjourned first game, Karpov had been a bishop ahead, but when play resumed yesterday, Karpov could find no way to win and a draw was agreed. In the second game, which started on Monday and also developed into a marathon encounter, Karpov had seemed on the brink of defeat after his pieces had silted up and down his back rank with no way of threatening his opponent. However, his unlikely defence managed to reach a position giving him a chance of salvaging a draw.

Full moves in Short's win in game two against Gelfand:

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	d5	35 e4	Ra2
2 d4	c6	36 g5	g5
3 Nc3	Nf6	37 Nc5	Kf5
4 Nc3	Nbd7	38 Rg3	Ree2
5 Bg5	Be7	39 Nf3	Rab2
6 Qd1	0-0	40 Ne1	Ra4
7 Re1	b6	41 Nc3	Rbd2
8 cxd5	exd5	42 Rg2	Rg2
9 Qa4	c5	43 Rg2	Rd4
10 Bb5	b5	44 Kf2	Nd7
11 Bb4	exd4	45 Kf3	Ra4
12 e4	Nf5	46 Rf1	Nb6
13 Rg3	Ba6	47 Rf7	Nc4
14 Qa6	Rg5	48 Ka2	Ra2
15 Ra1	Ra6	49 Kf1	Ra3
16 Kf1	Nf5	50 Ka2	Ra2
17 Ng5	h5	51 Ke1	g4
18 f3	g4	52 f4	g4
19 Qb5	Ng3	53 Nf4	Nc3
20 Qg3	Rb5	54 Rf7	a4
21 Qb3	Rb2	55 g6	g6
22 Rb2	Qb6	56 g6	g6
23 f4	Qb6	57 Ng2	Rg2
24 Nf1	Qg1	58 Rf3	g6
25 Nf2	Rb6	59 Rf3	Nb6
26 Rf3	Rb6	60 Rf3	Rg5
27 Rf1	Qc7	61 Kf2	Kf5
28 Qc2	Ra3	62 Kf3	Kf4
29 Rf1	Qf4	63 Rf3	Kf3
30 Rf1	g6	64 Kf2	Rg4
31 Kf1	Kg7	65 Ra3+	Kf2
32 Qc1	Ra2	66 Ra6	Rf4+
33 Qf4	g4		
34 Nc3	g5		



## Grand prix driver denies CS attack on cabbie

By RICHARD DUCE

A FORMULA One racing driver jostled for position with a London black cab, then sprayed the taxi driver in the face with CS gas as both men argued after the two vehicles collided, a court was told yesterday.

Bertrand Gachot, a Frenchman ranked 11th in the world, was driving a red Alfa Romeo as he jockeyed for position at Hyde Park Corner with the taxi driven by Eric Court, Southwark crown court heard.

Eric Ogden, for the prosecution, said: "It seems there was a jockeying for position and there came a stage when the taxi was immediately in front of the vehicle driven by Gachot. There was a bump. The taxi driver had applied his brakes but hit the back of the car. Mr Gachot applied his brakes but hit the back of the taxi bumper to bumper. There was a mild jolt but no damage."

Mr Court, aged 48, told the jury: "I walked between the back of the cab and the left hand drive door of the red car. I said, 'what the bloody hell did you do that for?'. He just stood there smiling at me. He didn't speak. I then said to him, 'get back in your car'. I turned to go away and he raised his left hand and sprayed me in the face."

"The first spray hit me just under the left eye. I can tell you I was terrified. I grabbed him with my left hand by the tie to try and stop him and he then sprayed me across all of my face. My face felt like it was on fire."

The prosecution alleges that Mr Gachot, who denies assault causing actual bodily harm on December 10 last year, then

hid the CS canister in the lavatory cistern of a building near by.

Mr Ogden said Mr Gachot, who finished ninth in last Sunday's Hungarian grand prix and recorded the fastest lap time, would claim he had acted in self-defence. "But the actions of Mr Gachot were far in excess of anything that was required by him to defend himself from a taxi driver talking to him about a slight bump."

Cross-examined by Robert Grey, for the defence, Mr Court denied threatening to kill Mr Gachot after finding out where he lived. Mr Court said: "That's amusing. I am a licensed cab driver. Do you know what they would do to me? He is not a hard man to find. He's a Formula One racing driver. He drives in the driver's championship." He said he learnt the next day who Mr Gachot was when he read the newspaper report of the attack.

Two witnesses told the jury that they believed Mr Gachot, who has a home in Fulham, southwest London, was driving aggressively before the collision. Peter Swatton, a passenger in the taxi, said: "He was driving very aggressively and drove very close to the rear of the cab. But as the road narrowed, the taxi driver was able to pull away, leaving the red car behind us."

He said he then felt a bump and the taxi driver stopped the cab, got out and ran towards Gachot's car. He saw the two men argue and then Mr Gachot spray Mr Court in the face from a gas canister.

The trial continues today.



End of the line? David Chapple, of St Buryan, Cornwall, catching mackerel by handline in Mount's Bay, five miles from Land's End. Mr Chapple and fellow members of the South West Handline Fishermen's Association are pleading for exemption from the EC fishing quota system which, they say, could deprive them of the rewards of EC conservation measures introduced to protect their livelihoods. The handline fishermen argue that their "uniquely selective and conservationist fishery" could not seriously affect stocks even if the present fleet trebled in size. Fishing for mackerel with more efficient but less discriminating trawlers or purse seiners has been banned in an area from Plymouth to beyond the Isles of Scilly and up the Irish Sea to South Wales since the pursuit of immature mackerel threatened to push stocks into extinction in the 1970s. The fishermen say it would be disastrous to end the protected "mackerel box" around the southwest coast.

## Vandals blamed for £100m damage to schools every year

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

VANDALS are causing £100 million of damage to schools and colleges every year, committing up to 10 per cent of education authorities' maintenance budgets, the National Audit Office reported yesterday.

Schools have also become the most common target for arson attacks, the report said. The number of serious fires rose by almost 50 per cent in six years, disrupting work and placing a burden on insurers.

The rising tide of vandalism, especially in city schools, was a main factor contributing to the decline in the condition of state schools identified in a report by the public spending watchdog. There had been little progress since the education department found serious deficiencies five years ago.

The report said that repair and maintenance bills would continue to rise for the rest of the decade, largely because of the legacy of prefabricated and system-built property from the 1960s and 1970s. Local authorities could manage their spending more efficiently, but budgets had been cut in real terms before their spending power was restored.

Michael Fallon, the schools minister, said the report showed that significant amounts of money were being spent on school buildings, but many councils could improve their performance. "In my view, parents will expect proper priority to be given within budgets to making sure that schools are kept in decent repair," he said.

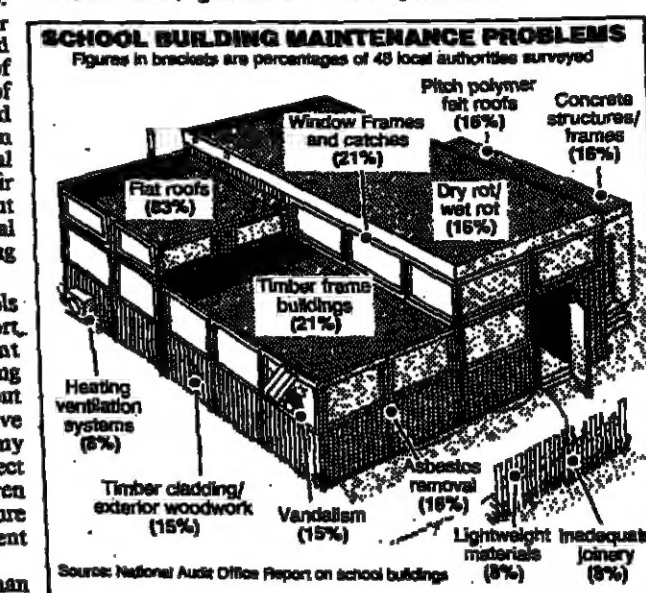
Jeremy Becham, chairman

of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said councils needed £4.3 billion over three years but were being allowed by the government to spend £450 million. "The government is simply starving the public sector of the investment needed for repairs and replacement. There would be no problem if central government shared local government's desire to tackle all the problems of decay and disrepair," he said.

Derek Faubert, a Labour education spokesman, said: "The Conservative government has starved local authorities of the necessary resources, allowing them to spend only about one third of what is needed to maintain and to improve our schools." David Hart, general sec-

retary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said the report was a serious indictment of the state of repair of schools. "For far too long schools have suffered from a standard of accommodation which is deemed unacceptable for the vast majority of the working population."

The report said shortcomings must be remedied if the full demands of the national curriculum were to be met. Fears that inadequate maintenance was impairing health and safety standards were not borne out by the statistics. Only 75 out of 75,000 school injuries in 1988-90 could be attributed to poor repairs and maintenance. The Health and Safety Executive said schools remained relatively safe overall.



## Repairs backlog will get worse, audit report says

THE state of school buildings has been a political hot potato since the government gave councils a decade to bring premises up to minimum standards (John O'Leary writes). That time is up, and ministers had to give an extension last October.

Without apportioning blame, yesterday's report by the National Audit Office showed that there is a long way to go. It found little improvement since 1986, and said that costs would keep rising for the rest of the century.

Councils are able to spend far less than they would like on upkeep of schools, the report said. Backlogs of routine repairs will get worse. All 48 authorities answering a survey in 1988 reported maintenance difficulties, and a follow-up two years later found little change. Most said that schools built in the 1960s and 1970s to cope with booming pupil numbers were their greatest worry as the fabric deteriorated and fixtures wore out. Substantial items, such as boilers and wiring, would need replacing in even greater numbers in the next ten years.

Prefabricated and system-built schools took a disproportionate share of maintenance budgets. "The emergency repairs now necessary are the primary reason why the authorities have had to divert funds from the routine maintenance of older buildings, thus exacerbating the long-term maintenance difficulties," the report said.

The NAO found that spending on repairs and maintenance had recovered after an 8 per cent drop in 1988-89. An estimated £390 million was spent the following year, and the total is expected to reach £500 million in 1991-92. The report recorded without comment the government's view that good management would allow councils to devote more money to school premises.

In the smaller independent school sector, £257 million was spent in 1989-90 on buildings and equipment, equivalent to £543 a pupil. Their spending had risen consistently in the previous decade, from less than £200 a pupil.

The government and councils have been eager to pass off responsibility for shortcomings in state school premises. The councils say they need an extra £4.3 billion from central government; ministers com-

plain that they cannot direct council funding into schools.

The NAO keeps out of the argument, registering the education department's estimate that surplus school places cost £350 million a year to maintain and acknowledging the councils' success in reducing surplus places. The office did, however, criticise councils for concentrating on emergency repairs at the expense of routine maintenance, saying that many had no repair strategy.

"Failure to undertake routine maintenance means that buildings may deteriorate further and far heavier maintenance expenditure may be incurred," the report said. Some progress, mainly superficial, was being made under new moves to allow schools to manage their budgets.

The report said reasons for maintenance becoming a burden included rising costs, inadequate estate management, the design and age of premises, and vandalism. After last year's extension, the government and councils have five more years to find answers.

Repair and Maintenance of School Buildings, NAO (Stationery Office, £5.50)

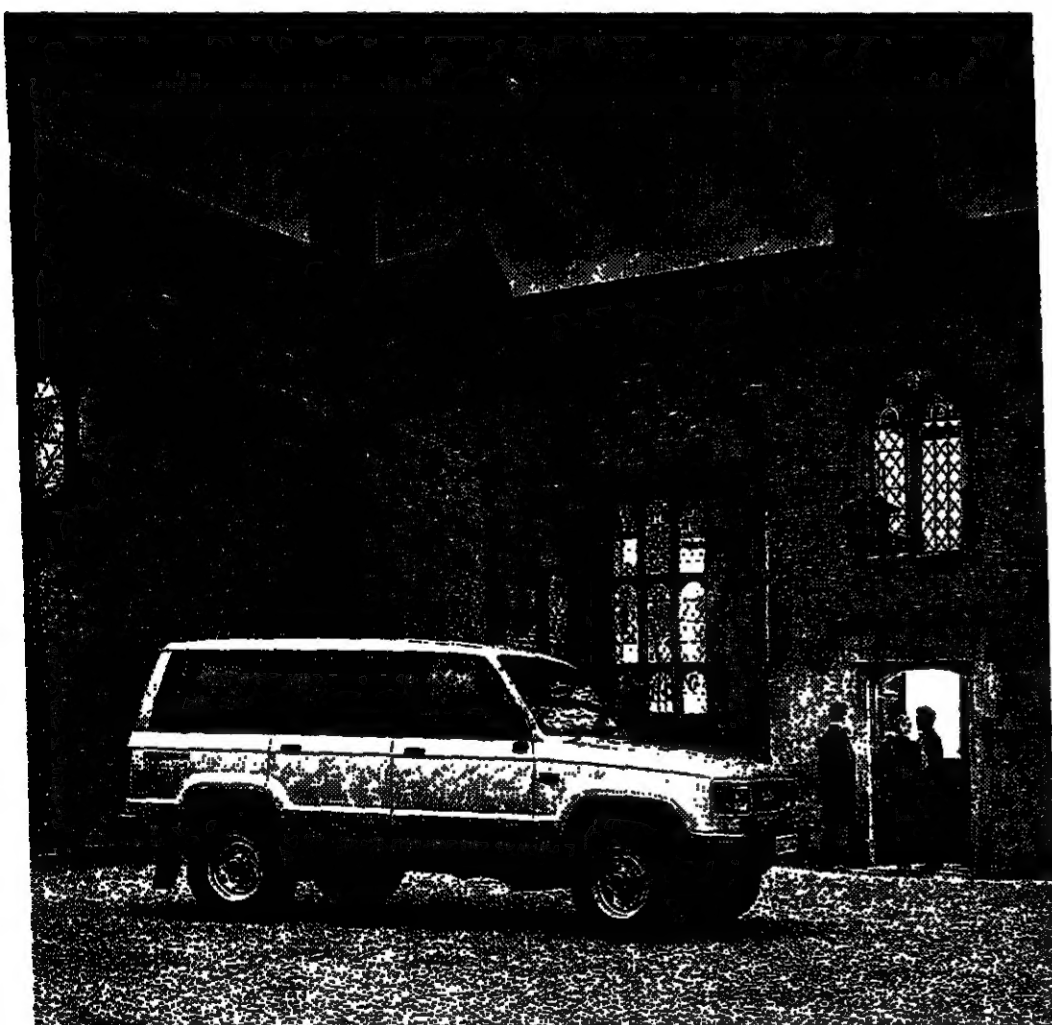
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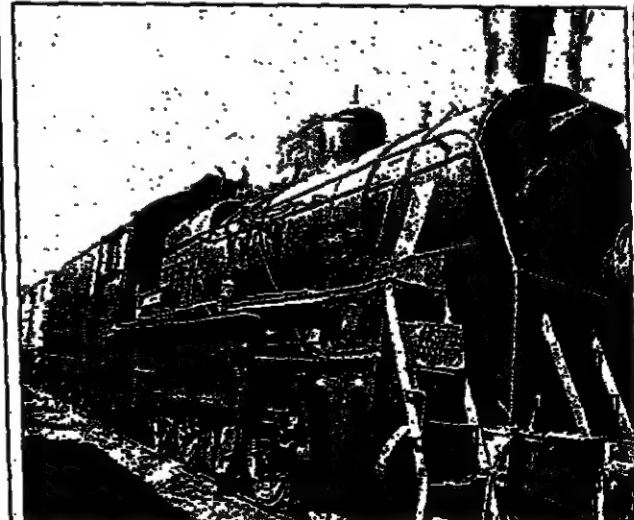
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The 4 x 4 Isuzu Trooper.

ISUZU



Red star delivery: the engine awaiting a British buyer

## Buyer sought for Soviet steam giant

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAILWAY enthusiasts are being offered a unique opportunity to own a Soviet steam engine by a British export company that specialises in trade with the Soviet Union.

The 100-tonne locomotive was built in 1949 and was used to haul express freight between Moscow and Kazan, the capital of the Tatar Autonomous Republic. The engine comes complete with coaches and track, as the Soviet track gauge is two and a half inches wider than Britain's.

The locomotive is one of three that were preserved under a conservation order. All are in perfect working condition and are steamed up about four times a year. Soviet

railway officials want to invest the hard currency from the sale in the region's railway.

Geoff Robinson, the director of the Rowan Way Export Company in Pontypool, Gwent, said he discovered the engines while on a 14-hour train journey between Moscow and Kazan. "We are eager to hear from any railway preservation societies, theme parks, museums, or private individuals who would be interested in bringing the locomotive to Britain," he said.

Mr Robinson said it would be hard to put a price on the engine but it would be considerably less than the £100,000 it normally takes to rebuild an old engine from scratch.

## Recruiting of teachers improves

THE recovery in teacher recruitment is more marked than the government thought, the education department reported yesterday (John O'Leary writes). The number of vacancies for teachers has fallen by 20 per cent this year, compared with a 14 per cent reduction announced in May by Michael Fallon, the schools minister. The annual survey, conducted in January, registered the first reduction of teacher shortages for four years. There were 5,200 vacancies, against almost 6,500 in 1990, and the vacancy rate has fallen from 1.8 to 1.5 per cent.

Mathematics, science and technology, where shortages have been most severe, all showed an improvement, with vacancies down by a third on the previous year. The highest proportion of vacancies continued to be in languages other than French and German, where 73 unfilled posts represented 7 per cent of the total available.

London remained the most difficult recruiting area, with 3 per cent of posts in inner-city schools remaining vacant. The overall vacancy rate fell by 35 per cent over the year, however, and secondary schools in the capital had their lowest number of vacancies since 1986.

A reduction in the number of teaching posts has been partly responsible for the national improvement.

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Global deal beckons as former Lebanon captives seek to adjust to freedom

Bonn poses threat to freeing of hostages

FROM ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HEZBOLLAH yesterday offered two Israeli soldiers it has held since 1986 as part of a general exchange of Arab prisoners in Israel and Western hostages in Lebanon.

But a new obstacle threatens to thwart the deal: Germany says it cannot negotiate the release of any of the "freedom fighters" convicted and sentenced by its courts for terrorist offences. A spokesman said yesterday that, since the German judiciary was fully independent, the government could not negotiate the early release of those serving prison sentences even if it so wished.

A Hezbollah spokesman in Beirut said his party would be willing to join the "bazaar of the hostages" with Yossi Fink and Rachamim Alsheikh, captured during an Israeli incursion into Lebanon in 1986. The group's main demand, in return, he said, was the release of the Arab detainees in Israel. Such a condition, if met, would also fulfil the demand of the kidnappers of ten Westerners held in Lebanon.

However, an implicit demand in the kidnappers' letter to the United Nations could undo current efforts to end the hostage saga, fundamentalist sources said. The Islamic Jihad Organisation told the UN that they were ready to free all hostages if the detainees "around the world" were freed. The demand clearly



Taking control: John McCarthy tries his hand at the instrument panel of the flight simulator of a Hercules C130 transport aircraft at RAF Lyneham, where he is still undergoing a series of tests after his release from Beirut

McCarthy keeps feet on ground

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JOHN McCarthy, who left for Britain last night, said the political situation in Lebanon was "a lot more stable", which gave grounds for hope.

He also noted that the Western powers and the countries of the Middle East had been working together since the Gulf war to resolve the tensions and conflicts in the region, which might lead to a resolution of the situation in Lebanon.

Dr Carey said Israel had a part to play and he hoped it would contribute by freeing its hostages. But he was particularly looking to Hezbollah to release its captives.

Secluded Tracy to get stress care

By IAN MURRAY

AFTER two days of medical tests at the American air force hospital in Wiesbaden, Edward Tracy will fly back to the United States this morning for treatment for severe stress suffered as a result of nearly five years as a hostage in Beirut.

A bookseller and itinerant businessman from Burlington, Vermont, Mr Tracy has lived in Beirut for ten years before being kidnapped in October 1986. He has not been back to the United States for 25 years.

Yesterday his two daughters, Monica and Margaret, arrived from their home in the Canary Islands to see him. They joined him for lunch, which he ordered: spaghetti with meat sauce, garlic toast, and tossed green salad, followed by ice cream.

Israelis stand by missing troops

FROM BEN LINFELD IN JERUSALEM

SEVEN Israeli servicemen, taken captive or missing in action, are the key to any agreement on the release of hostages.

Yehuda Katz, aged 31, Zacharia Bammel, aged 30, and Zvi Feldman, aged 34, are listed as missing since June 11, 1982, five days after Israeli troops invaded Lebanon. Katz's father said yesterday that he had information that his son, Bammel and Feldman were still alive. The three, members of a tank unit, took part in a battle with Syrian armour in eastern Lebanon.

Samir Assad, aged 30, a member of Israel's Druze Arab minority, disappeared on April 3, 1983, near Tyre while trying to rejoin his unit after visiting his family in the northern Israeli village of Jaan. The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine announced it was holding him captive. It yesterday said that he had subsequently been killed but it was willing to surrender his body.

Yossi Fink, aged 26, and Rachamim Alsheikh, aged 25, were captured by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group on February 17, 1986, at Beit Yaboun village in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in southern Lebanon. Israeli investigators found enough blood in their vehicle to know that at least one had been seriously wounded, but it has never been established who was hit or if either survived.

Ron Arad, aged 33, an air force navigator, was shot down in his Phantom fighter near Sidon on October 11, 1986. He participated in an Israeli air strike against targets of the Palestinian groups Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. He was held at first by the mainstream Shia Muslim Amal group, but was subsequently handed over to a more radical Shia faction.

Tradition fuels Israel's demand that it receive news of the seven soldiers before entering into a deal.

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's deputy foreign minister, spelt out Israel's terms yesterday, saying: "We are having difficulty getting the minimum which we are entitled to - that is information, and in the end freedom for our people in exchange for prisoners we hold. Without this, we will simply not act."

Druze body 'has less value'

FROM ADAM KELLNER IN DAMASCUS

THE deteriorated remains of an Israeli trooper became a new factor in the bargaining arena yesterday amid moves to free the hostages in Lebanon. But the Palestinian group holding the corpse says that its six years of trying to engineer an exchange have failed because the dead man is a Druze.

"If he were Jewish, they would have released maybe 50 prisoners for his body," said Daoud Talhami, a spokesman for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, who believes Israel's stated policy of exerting every effort to get its personnel back, dead or alive, is selective.

Within these manoeuvres came the declaration by Hezbollah and Lebanon that it was willing to return two live Israeli personnel. Four others are rumoured to be held by various Palestinian and Shia Muslim groups.

Samir Assad had just been promoted from private when he was captured in 1983 during Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon. The Israeli recruit Druze because fighters from the secretive Arab Muslim sect are renowned for martial ferocity, their firm belief in reincarnation making death a more acceptable prospect, and they have an aversion to enmity against other clans in Lebanon.

According to Mr Talhami, Assad died at the hands of the Israelis, being accidentally killed in 1985, at the age of 23, in an Israeli bombing raid on a base where he was being held near the Lebanese city of Tripoli. Through the Red Cross, the front, a moderate faction of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, in 1986 approached the Israeli authorities and offered to exchange Assad's body for a member of their central committee, Omar al-Kassem, who was serving a double life sentence in Israel.

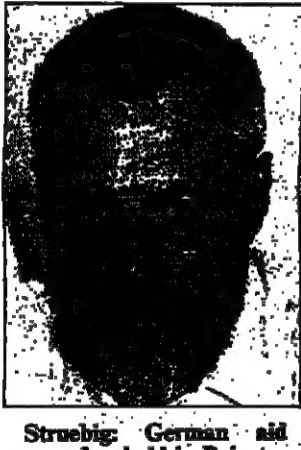
The secret negotiations faltered when al-Kassem died of cancer in 1989, but Mr Talhami said the front subsequently requested the corpse be exchanged for an unspecified number of Palestinian detainees. This time, the front rejected Israel's terms that any returned Palestinians sign a declaration vowing not to participate in political activities.

The front states that the negotiations have nothing to do with the hostages, and is anxious not to be connected with the zealots holding the Westerners. Two years ago it allowed a Red Cross doctor to inspect the body, which remains somewhere in Lebanon. Mr Talhami said the talks are continuing.

"We are discussing very concrete things with them now," he said, referring to possible releases among an estimated 20,000 Palestinians detained in Israel, some without trial. "But we do not have any contact with any other side, either Palestinian or Lebanese, in this affair," he said.

Ankara: Shimon Peres, the leader of Israel's opposition Labour party, made a one-day visit to Turkey and met unidentified Soviet diplomats aboard a yacht at the Aegean town of Marmaris, a leading Turkish newspaper, *Hurriyet*, reported yesterday.

The newspaper did not say how it determined the men were Soviet or diplomats. The Israeli chargé d'affaires, Uri Gordon, said that he knew Mr Peres would come to Turkey and meet "personal friends" at Marmaris. But he said he doubted they were Soviet diplomats. (AP)



Struebig: German aid worker held in Beirut

Iran says Obeid to be freed by Saturday

By ALI JABER IN BEIRUT AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

SHEIKH Abdel Karim Obeid, the Hezbollah cleric imprisoned in Israel, whose release is a key factor in the Middle East hostage diplomacy, will be freed by Saturday, security sources in Beirut and Iran's official news agency said yesterday. His release would represent a breakthrough in the case of the ten Westerners held captive in Lebanon by associates of Sheikh Obeid.

The news agency, quoting a "well-informed" Muslim source, said: "Sheikh Obeid will be freed within a few days. He will rejoin his family in the village of Jibchit on Saturday at the latest." In Beirut, the editor-in-chief of the Iranian *Irna* news agency, Musa Nabaeem, said: "Our source is very reliable. This report is not speculation."

Sheikh Obeid, a Shia Muslim cleric linked to the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hezbollah militia, was abducted from southern Lebanon by Israeli commandos in 1989. His release has been one of the kidnappers' main conditions to set free the remaining ten foreign hostages.

Israel last night made no comment on the Iranian report which came amid growing optimism that a deal to release all hostages and prisoners is near. The agency has previously predicted correctly the release of Western hostages held by groups loyal to factions in Iran.

Israel regards Sheikh Obeid as its key bargaining chip and diplomats said it was impossible to see Israel freeing the cleric as a goodwill gesture.

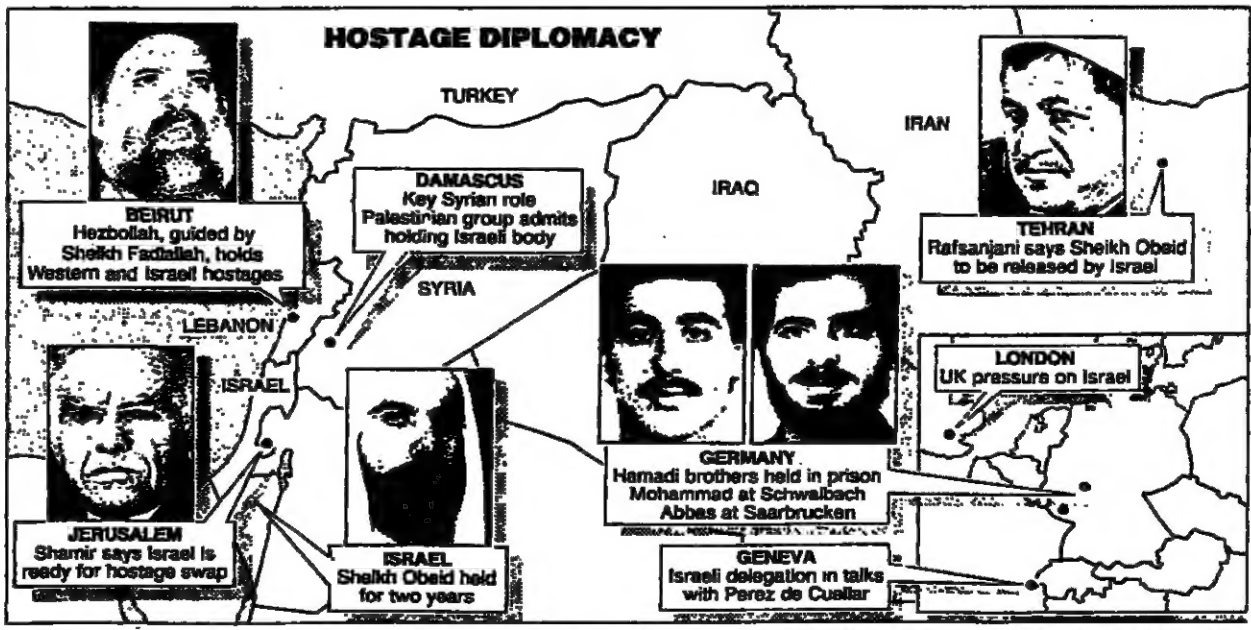
"The only way Obeid will be re-united with his family on Saturday is if the Israelis also kidnap them," a security official in Jerusalem said.

Mohammad Hamadi, the younger of the two imprisoned brothers, was given a life sentence in Frankfurt in May, 1989, for the hijack of a TWA plane and for killing Robert Stethem, an American serviceman who was aboard the aircraft. The German aid workers were seized the day he was sentenced. His brother, Abbas, a naturalised West German, was jailed for 13 years in 1988 for his kidnapping in Beirut.

About the time of Abbas Hamadi's arrest, the United States applied for the extradition of his brother to stand trial for kidnapping and murder, offences for which he would have faced the death penalty if convicted in America. In West Germany, where there is no capital punishment, a life sentence, with automatic remissions for good behaviour, was the worst punishment he faced.

Behind the scenes, Bonn came under extreme pressure from both the Americans and from the shadowy group holding the German hostages in Beirut. Washington wanted the extradition, but Germany refused.

UN optimism, page 1



THE key parts of an emerging global hostage deal are:

- The letter from John McCarthy's kidnappers seeking the release of Arab "freedom fighters" in European and Israeli jails.
- Israel's statement that it is willing to free Shia Muslim prisoners once it receives firm information about its seven missing soldiers.
- The undertaking by Hezbollah, which admits holding two Israeli servicemen, to release them in a reciprocal gesture for the freeing of Arabs held in Israel.
- The willingness of the radical DFLP Palestinian group to hand over the remains of a third Israeli that it claims to hold.
- The reiteration by Hezbollah that it wants Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid, the Shia cleric, released, arguing that it has shown goodwill by freeing Edward Tracy and John McCarthy. America and Britain have asked Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, to free the sheikh and some Shia prisoners in Israeli-controlled southern Lebanon.
- Among obstacles to a deal is that Britain, America and Germany do not want any deals that involve convicted terrorists.

Clerics say scholar never had mentality to bomb and maim

IN THE fertile but troubled frontier region of southern Lebanon the mystique of Sheikh Abdel Karim Obeid is all things to all men.

To his former comrades in arms he is a hero captured for his struggle against Israeli occupation. To Israel he is a notorious terrorist responsible for some of the worst outrages committed by Hezbollah (the party of God) in the region. And to his former acquaintances he is simply a promising Muslim scholar who never displayed the fanaticism needed for his supposed guerrilla exploits.

All, however, agree that his release after two years of detention in Israel, or for that matter his continued captivity, will have an important bearing on the future of this contested region, one of the last outposts of the Lebanese civil war.

Sayed Ali al-Amin, an accomplished Shia cleric and teacher, yesterday recalled his first encounter with the kidnapped sheikh in 1980, when Sheikh Obeid was his student in the holy Iranian city of Qom, the home of Shia religious education and thought. "He was good in school," said Sayed al-Amin, who subsequently

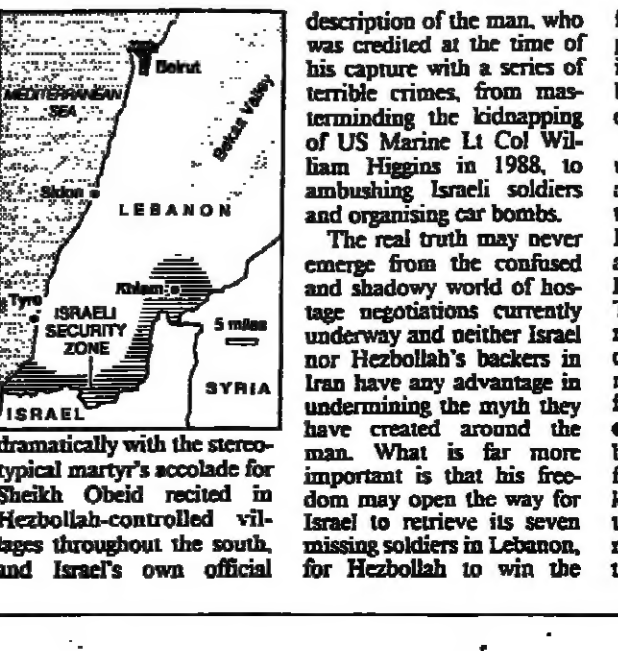
taught Sheikh Obeid in the mid-1980s at a seminary in Beirut. "He was not at all fundamentalist. He had an open mind."

The former teacher, who now lives in Tyre and is closely associated with the mainstream Shia Amal movement, revealed for the first time that Sheikh Obeid's moderation actually cost him his job with Hezbollah, and that at the time of his abduction the supposed terrorist mastermind was actually suspended from his duties.

"He was never an important figure in Hezbollah, he only became famous because of his capture by Israel," he said. "In fact Sheikh Obeid had been suspended for some time before his capture by the Hezbollah leadership because he had refused in 1988 to attack rival Shia Amal militiamen in his village."

According to Sayed al-Amin, all two dozen leading Hezbollah figures were expelled from southern Lebanon during the inter-Shia fighting, which left only Sheikh Obeid within striking distance when Israel decided to capture him.

This description contrasts



description of the man, who was credited at the time of his capture with a series of terrible crimes, from masterminding the kidnapping of US Marine Lt Col William Higgins in 1982, to ambushing Israeli soldiers and organising car bombs.

The real truth may never emerge from the confused and shadowy world of hostage negotiations currently underway and neither Israel nor Hezbollah's backers in Iran have any advantage in undermining the myth they have created around the man. What is far more important is that his freedom may open the way for Israel to retrieve its seven missing soldiers in Lebanon, for Hezbollah to win the freedom of about 400 Shia prisoners held by Israel and its proxies, and ultimately to bring a final close to the entire hostage saga.

Military and political figures believe that once that is achieved a solution may then be possible for southern Lebanon as a whole. "People are truly sick of this whole hostage saga," said Hassan, a Tyre resident speaking for many in the bustling port city. "Once that is over many other solutions could fall into place."

● Villages shelled: Israeli-backed gunmen retaliating for guerrilla attacks that killed a policeman, shelled three villages in south Lebanon yesterday, wounding three people. (Reuters)



## Belgrade demands Serbs and Croats free all prisoners

FROM ERNEST BECK IN ZAGREB AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE federal commission in Belgrade, monitoring the ceasefire in Croatia, has set a deadline of midnight on Sunday for all prisoners who were taken during violent clashes between Serbs and Croats to be freed, the Tanjug news agency reported yesterday.

The commission, which met overnight, has also ordered both sides to hand over lists of the prisoners they hold, as well as the names of those they regard as missing. At the weekend, Serbian separatists and Croatian authorities swapped 25 prisoners in the first exchanges since hostilities were suspended after the ceasefire on August 7.

Another exchange, involving 70 prisoners, was postponed on Monday and is now expected to take place today. Irfan Ajanovic, a member of the commission, has said that an enquiry would be opened into the clashes on August 1 in Croatia's eastern region of Slavonia. It would look into reports that about 60 Croats were killed in Sarvas and about 50 Serbs in the neighbouring town of Dalj. Unconfirmed reports, a day after the clashes, said about 80 Croat policemen had also died at Dalj.

The commission called on both communities to create conditions that would allow

those who had fled their homes to return. About 90,000 Serbs and Croats have left their homes.

For those who live in what Croatian authorities have now designated "crisis areas", there is no truce or ceasefire and no end to the fear that darkness will bring a new round of explosions and sniper fire from somewhere in the surrounding countryside.

Croatian leaders acknowledge that attempts to consolidate the ceasefire have so far failed. In the village of Beli Manastir, for instance, an attack began with the first grenade just after midnight. More exploded at hourly intervals, aimed at the local police station, near Zadar, and machinegun fire lasted for an hour. In the nearby villages of Petlovac and Cerninac, mortar shells landed at dawn. And in Sunja, south of Zagreb, the two sons of a farmer were reportedly kidnapped from their beds.

Drazen Budisa, minister without portfolio in the Croatian government, declared: "The latest events demonstrate that the other side does not accept the truce and that the daily terrorist acts continue unabated."

The conflict is spilling into cities where Serbs, who do not even identify with the fighting, complain of harassment. Mirjana, a young widow in cosmopolitan Zagreb, said: "Every time I have to show my documents I feel that I am looked on with scorn and suspicion." She is a Croat but was married to a Serb. "I feel like divorcing my dead husband and taking back my maiden name," she said.

Zagreb's large Serbian minority, many of them businessmen and intellectuals, say they are being blamed for ethnic clashes in rural parts of the republic, where Serbian guerrillas are trying to stop Croats leaving Yugoslavia.

Milan Djukic, president of the recently founded Serbian People's party in Croatia, said many urban Serbs do not even identify directly with the guerrilla fighting, but are suffering its results. They were being dismissed from their jobs or being forced to swear oaths of allegiance to an independent Croatian state. Some Serb businesses had been bombed.

More than 300 people have died in fighting in Croatia and neighbouring Slovenia since the two republics declared independence on June 25. Most have died in Croatia, where members of a 600,000-strong Serbian minority want to stay in Yugoslavia.

According to Mr Djukic, nationalist Serbs who won control of the Krajina region, represent only a quarter of Croatia's Serbian minority.

## Pilgrims abandon Yugoslav Lourdes

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MEDJUGORJE

THE evening Mass at the 'church of St. James' in Medjugorje is in full swing. The strains of *Ave Maria* are heard from the balcony of a local cafe. Outside the shabby, twin-towered church, confessions are being held in a row of primitive boxes marked with the language of bigotry: Slovene, Croatian, English and Hungarian.

Ten years ago, six young people in this remote village, stranded amid the barren hills of western Herzegovina, claimed that the Virgin Mary appeared to them with the message to pray for peace. Four of the visionaries still claim to see an apparition of the Virgin, at 5.40pm every day. The clockwork reliability of the phenomenon has helped its fame spread across Europe and beyond, to the Philippines and America.

The miracle of Medjugorje is dismissed by the local Roman Catholic Bishop of Mostar as a mere trick by the 'Franciscans to wrest Catholic power in the region for themselves. Rome has neither sanctioned nor forbidden pilgrimage. However, despite widespread scepticism within the church itself, the village has developed into a place of pilgrimage to rival Lourdes.

This summer, however, the makeshift pavement cafes offering hamburgers and pizzas are empty and the souvenir shops, seemingly endless rows of statues of Our Lady and thick curtains of rosary beads remain unsold. The population of Medjugorje, for whom the first religious miracle has brought the second economic one in its wake, are torn between their



loyalty to the Croatian cause—amply documented by pro-secessionist graffiti—and their failing business. The money-changers have stopped short of the temple, but only just, loitering by the path to the church in search of black-market marks.

Father Slavko Barbaric, a Franciscan friar at the church, has his own method of calculating the missing pilgrims. "Last August we gave 240,000 communions. So far this month we haven't even reached 20,000 and most of them are Croatian pilgrims."

The Catholic Church is firmly behind Croatian independence and the Franciscans make no secret of their own sympathies in the conflict. "We tell people to pray for peace and reconciliation but our enemies are blinded by hatred. If there is war then we will be behind the defence of Croatian freedom and democracy."

His main fear is that the death of tourists will plunge the village into depression, making it more fertile for ethnic hatred. Nobody wants to return to their former hard life on the land "before the Virgin". "I have to remind people that God sees into every heart," Father Slavko said sternly. "If they pray for peace to come to Croatia, it shouldn't be just because they want the tourists back."



See's pilgrimage: the Pope praying at the grave of his parents at the Rakowicki cemetery in Krakow yesterday, during a four-day pastoral visit to Poland, his second this year. Looking fit and rested, the Pope had been welcomed by President Walesa and his wife, Danuta, and Jan Krzysztof Bielecki, the prime minister (Pat Keen writes). On Friday, the Pope will begin a four-day visit to Hungary, where a security ban has been placed on hunting, carrying umbrellas, radios, and glasses, and keeping windows open in areas he tours. Even boat traffic on the Danube is restricted.

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## Offer of cash and clothes fails to budge Albanians

FROM PAUL BOMPARD IN ROME

SIX days after an estimated 17,000 Albanian refugees poured across the Adriatic to southern Italy—most of them only to be transported straight back by the Italian authorities—500 to 600 were still holding out yesterday against repatriation. Some were in Bari harbour and others in the town's football stadium.

Surrounded by heavy cordons of police and soldiers, only a few accepted an offer of a pair of jeans, a new shirt and a 50,000-lire banknote (about £22) as an incentive to return to Albania. The rest continued to endure hunger, torrid heat and primitive hygienic conditions in the hope of being finally allowed to stay.

The Italian government's hard line in not allowing any of the refugees to stay was adopted in the wake of a first influx in March of more than

20,000 Albanians who then had to be fed, sheltered and housed in camps throughout Italy. At the same time the suspicion was growing that the Albanian government itself might have some responsibility for the sudden large-scale migrations.

In Bari harbour yesterday, many of the refugees still occupied the Susan, a Maltese merchant ship moored next to the wharf, on to which police had herded about 3,000 Albanians last Thursday. Police feared that some of them could have firearms.

Vincenzo Parisi, Italy's chief of police, tried repeatedly on Monday and yesterday to persuade the refugees to allow themselves to be sent back. Units of special anti-riot police have been brought to Bari, but Signor Parisi and Vincenzo Scotti, the interior

minister, said they hoped a peaceful solution could be found. But time may be running out. Health authorities have issued a warning that there have been several cases of salmonella and that there is a danger of an epidemic.

President Cossiga yesterday flew to Tirana to confirm Italy's commitment to give 150 billion lire (£68 million) in aid to Albania. Italy also stepped up emergency food shipments yesterday in an effort to prevent a new exodus of refugees. The foreign minister, Gianni De Michelis, has pledged that Italy would cover Albania's basic food needs till November.

The European Commission already has doubled the aid earmarked for Albania to four million euros (£2.72 million).

Leading article, page 13

## Britain's drugs trial begins

By CATHERINE SAMPSON IN BEIJING AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THREE Britons are among thousands of foreigners who have been caught in China's new drive against drugs. One of them, Mark Baber, aged 28, from Broadstairs, Kent, yesterday became the first Briton to be put on trial in China for a drugs offence.

Mr Baber, who is being defended by a Chinese lawyer, appeared in the Shanghai supreme court accused of drug smuggling, for which the maximum penalty is death. The hearing was adjourned after four hours, and it is not clear when it will continue.

Ian Cormack, the British vice-consul in Shanghai, China's largest city, who is attending the hearing, said: "We don't know yet when it will resume." He added that the adjournment might be for some days.

Mr Baber, thought to be travelling on a tourist visa, was arrested in Shanghai in March when, it is alleged, he tried to board a ship bound for Osaka in Japan carrying 7.2kg of marijuana.

The other two Britons were arrested a week ago in Xuzhou, northwest of Shanghai, accused of selling marijuana. They remain in detention. The authorities have not yet said if they will be put on trial.

Their names have not been released, but a Foreign Office spokesman in London said the two, a father and son, were detained on August 6 on suspicion of selling an unknown quantity of marijuana. The spokesman declined to name them but said their family had been informed. The father, in his forties, and the son, in his twenties, have lived in Asia for some years.

According to the Chinese criminal code, sentences for drug-related offences can range from immediate release in very minor cases to execution for more serious offences. A recent increase in drug trafficking and addiction in China has led the authorities to launch what they call a people's war on drugs. Courts have been ordered to punish offenders—quickly and severely. Since then dozens of Chinese have been executed, thousands of mainly oriental foreigners have been arrested, and the death sentence has been upheld on a Burmese man convicted of smuggling heroin.

The drive against offenders is part of China's commitment to eliminate the drugs problem within three years. Wang Fang, a state councillor and former public security minister, told a national anti-drugs conference in June that the country was suffering its worst drugs problems since the 1950s. The conference was the largest of its kind in China since 1952.

## America counts the cost of litigation

Washington—Even in the United States, a nation built on the rights of individuals, there must eventually be some limits. Before 10,000 members of the all-powerful American Bar Association, Dan Quayle, the vice-president, at last unveiled a plan to rein in a system of civil litigation that was "spinning out of control" (Martin Fletcher writes).

If the plan survives the predictable howls of America's \$90 billion-a-year (£53 billion) legal industry, it could spell the end of the stunningly frivolous lawsuits and astronomical punitive damages for which this country is renowned. Such was the "growing explosion of litigation" that America now had 70 per cent of the world's lawyers. More than 18 million civil suits were being filed annually, making America "the most litigious society in the world", he said. Americans were now spending \$300 billion (£176 billion) a year on legal fees and court costs.

The most striking of Mr Quayle's 50 recommendations is that punitive damages should henceforth be limited to the amount of the actual harm done.

## Wall memorial

Berlin—A 75-yard stretch of the empty "death strip" behind the Berlin Wall is to be retained as a memorial to mark the death of the first person killed after the city was divided. After a bitter debate, the Berlin senate made its decision by a narrow margin yesterday.

## Mengele haven

Rio de Janeiro—Brazilian authorities knew that Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz concentration camp doctor, was in Brazil as early as 1968, but did not arrest him, according to a declassified police report. His presence was not admitted officially until 1985 after his body was exhumed from a São Paulo cemetery. (Reuter)

## Spanish road toll

Madrid—Seventy-eight people were killed in Spanish traffic accidents at the weekend, the highest number of road deaths recorded in Spain this year. The death toll on Spain's roads stands at 837 since the beginning of July. In the same period last year, 842 died. (AP)

## Camp reprieve

Paris—The 89 families, including 250 children, living in tents near Austerlitz station won a temporary reprieve when a court postponed an expulsion order, originally set for August 12, until September 2. The regional chief constable has promised to house them, but the waiting time for homes is three years.

## Bones claim

Tokyo—Japan appears more interested in disposing of, rather than identifying, dozens of fragmented skulls and thigh bones unearthed in Tokyo on the site of the second world war military medical school. Experts allege they could belong to Chinese and Soviet prisoners used for germ warfare experiments. (AP)

## Japanese aid

Ulan Bator—Toshiki Kaifu, the Japanese prime minister, arrived in Mongolia with aid promises, including \$48 million yen (£4 million) for installation of an earth satellite station to improve communications, and a cash grant of two billion yen for economic reform. (Reuter)

## Suspects freed

Paris—Swiss police last week handed over to their French colleagues on the border the two Iranians now thought to have killed Shapur Bakhtiar, the former Iranian prime minister, believing their entry visas to be forged. They were not on a list of terrorists and were freed, the French interior ministry said. (Reuter)

## Air blockade

Antananarivo—Madagascar international flights were cancelled for a third day, as the capital remained paralysed by a general strike called by the opposition coalition, Hery Velona ("lifeblood committee") after security forces killed at least 31 protesters in a weekend march on the presidential palace. (AFP)

## Captains' table

Sydney—Pilots dismissed during the seven-month Australian domestic airline strike last year are planning to start their own domestic airline, AAA Airlines, next year. They would not only fly planes, but on some flights would serve coffee and handle baggage.

## Pretoria seeks to rescue Russians

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH Africa is organising an air lift to rescue 163 crewmen from the Mikhail Somov, a Soviet research vessel trapped by pack ice in the Antarctic and exposed to severe midwinter storms.

Rescuers intend to ferry the crew by helicopter from the ship to the Soviet research station at Molodetzhnaya, 30 nautical miles away, where an emergency airstrip is being built to allow a Soviet Ilushin 16 transport aircraft to land and pick up the seamen. The aircraft is expected to arrive in Cape Town from Moscow tomorrow and will leave for the Antarctic as soon as the weather improves sufficiently. The Ilushin is expected to need two trips to bring the crew from the base to Cape Town. A second Soviet research vessel is expected to arrive in the port shortly to take the crew home.

A spokesman for the ministry of environmental affairs said the Mikhail Somov appeared to be in no immediate danger, and the crew and scientists on board were in good health. They were, however, exposed to strong winds and severe cold.

"Most countries operate in the Antarctic only between November and March. It's very late in the year for a ship to be in the region," the spokesman added. Soviet officials said the vessel had completed a 15-month mission but repeated attempts to break free of the ice had failed.

TSARIST NOTEBOOK by Bruce Clark

## Old Russia's guardians court emigré return

Mother Russia has finally resolved to settle the family's bitter feud, open her arms wide and welcome back her lost children... or that, at any rate, is the idea. In the most ambitious of several competing plans to reinstate a suspicious Russian diaspora in the affairs of its homeland, up to 800 more or less distinguished emigrés are expected to descend on Moscow shortly for a grandly named Congress of Compatriots. They will attend services in places such as the Kremlin's Cathedral of the Dormition and the Novo-devichy monastery, which have been silent for most of the last 74 years.

They will also join senior academics, writers and officials in worthy discussions on Russia's heritage. And times being what they are, they will inevitably be guided towards Russia's new class of business managers and entrepreneurs and asked if they can see their way to a little investment.

The 12-day exercise will also feature events in Leningrad and Sverdlovsk (St Petersburg and Ekaterinburg, to use their past, and probably future, names) as well as two less romantic cities, Perm and Novosibirsk. The plan is supported by Boris Yeltsin, clearly counting on his newfound legitimacy as a popularly elected, non-

communist leader of Russia to overcome the hostility of most emigrés to anything that moves in Bolshevik territory.

Well cast in the role of project director is Mikhail Tolstoy, an engaging and intelligent young scion of the literary family who is a science professor and a member of the Russian parliament. The Soviet per-



sonalities who have promised to help with the exercise range from Dmitri Likhachev, the respected octogenarian writer and historian, to Grigori Yavlinsky, the whizz-kid economist who collaborates with colleagues from Harvard on multibillion-ruble plans for economic revival.

However, anything that involves enticing successful emigrés back to their hard-pressed homeland is so vulnerable these days to charges of cynical hustling for cash that Mr Tolstoy has been at pains to dispel all such notions. "Our main task is not to rope our

compatriots into solving our domestic problems but to offer help to those who have been deprived of their homeland... as well as moral compensation."

Clearly some sections of the Russian diaspora are not convinced. The writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn has turned down an invitation to attend.

The organisers themselves admit that not everything is right in Russia. Not least among their worries is that Khronid Lubarsky, a dissident who played a prominent role in Andrei Sakharov's human rights campaigns and now lives in the West, is having difficulty getting permission to re-enter the Soviet Union for the congress, though he is billed as a leading participant.

Among the many efforts now under way to revive pre-revolutionary traditions, few can be so bizarre as the plan to return a beautiful old building in central Moscow, now used by the defence ministry as a library and military history institute, to its role as a finishing school for "well-born ladies".

This genteel institution will provide lessons in French, German, Latin, Greek, Russian literature, dancing and drawing. Its sponsors include a consortium of Russia's booming new commercial banks.

## Warning by Pavlov of 'power vacuum'

FROM MARY DEBEVSKY IN MOSCOW

VALENTIN Pavlov, the Soviet prime minister, yesterday outlined measures to keep the country warm and fed during the winter, but revealed that he might have no power to implement them once the signing of the Union Treaty begins next week.

The remarks of Mr Pavlov, who claimed that the country could face "a complete power vacuum" after August 20, when three of the four biggest republics are to sign, underlined the continuing administrative and economic shambles in the Soviet Union, and the power struggle between centre and republics. He appeared to be responding to Boris Yeltsin, the Russian leader, who had stated that central authority would "fall away" once Russia signed.

As the prime minister was speaking in Moscow, leaders of the five Central Asian republics were assembling in Tashkent, the capital of Uzbekistan, for a meeting today on economic co-operation.

● Call-up protests: The Soviet Union's traditionally passive students have announced a series of protests against plans to restore conscription for all 18-year-olds, including prospective students. The proposed change is developing into a top-level tussle between sections of the military, politicians and the education authorities.

Diary, page 12



Steps toward a royal recovery: Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands leaving the Peace Palace in The Hague to attend an official engagement for the first time since she broke her leg on holiday two weeks ago. The queen, aged 53, tripped while walking near her summer home in northern Italy, fracturing her right tibia.



# TV news adjusts to real life

**A**t America's CBS television network, the word is that earlier this year Andrew Heyward was offered the job of executive producer on the CBS Evening News, the half-hour evening showcase of the network's news division, starring veteran anchorman Dan Rather. But Mr Heyward turned it down.

The reason was not so much that Mr Heyward knew something the rest of the network did not. What he knew was plain for all to see. Over the past decade, the three American networks' combined share of the nightly news audience has plummeted from 72 per cent to 59 per cent. The very existence of traditional network news is now under threat. The networks' response - cutting staff and turning with a vengeance towards "infotainment" - may soon be emulated by cash-starved British news outfits.

The 1980s wrought great changes in American network television. Not only did news divisions face competition from the 24-hour Cable News Network, but all three networks were sold into the hands of cost-conscious investors - Capital Cities Communications took control at ABC, General Electric at NBC, and hotel magnate Lawrence Tisch at CBS.

This year, with the networks reeling from the cost of covering the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the Gulf war, the cuts in news divisions have been particularly severe. ABC is shedding 100 staff, closing its bureau in Rome and St Louis and reducing its operation in Miami. NBC has closed its New

**America's troubled TV networks are turning the news into 'reality TV'.**

**James Bone reports**

York, Miami and Frankfurt news bureaus, and is scaling back in London, Boston and Pittsburgh. CBS cut 100 people in March. All three networks also plan to take more footage from foreign news services.

Mr Heyward's importance in network news is that, having dared to spurn Dan Rather, he is trying to lead CBS's news division towards both fun and money. Instead of joining CBS Evening News, Mr Heyward chose to remain at the head of the 60-person unit that produces a news magazine called *48 Hours*. He is now using the unit to spearhead CBS's drive towards a more popular type of news, based on the increasingly popular "reality TV".

Reality-based programming, which uses real life rather than fiction as entertainment, has surged on to the American airwaves in the past five years. The Hollywood trade paper *Variety* recently headlined a report on the trend "Hot Genre Guts TV Market".

What started in the mid 1980s with a handful of highly successful TV specials, such as NBC's *Missing: Have You Seen This Person?*, has burgeoned into an industry within an industry. There are now almost two dozen reality-based

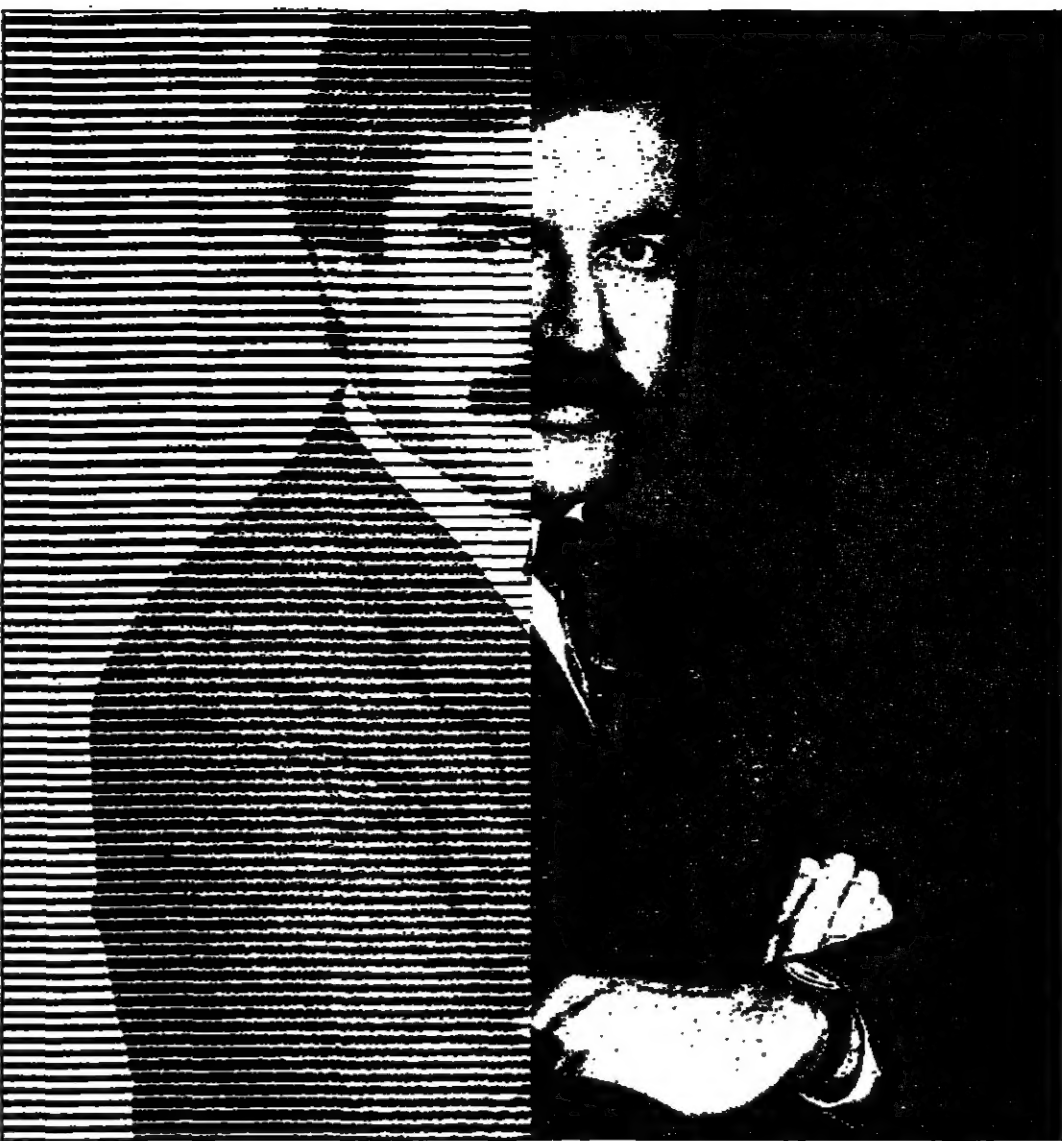
shows on American television, ranging from talk shows to re-enactments of gruesome crimes.

As the border between news and entertainment, between fact and fiction, began to blur, news magazine programmes joined the trend. Typically costing only half the \$1 million-an-hour price of television drama or sitcoms, they draw high ratings for little money. *48 Hours* is currently just behind CBS's *60 Minutes*, which leads the race, and ABC's *20/20*.

Mr Heyward's *48 Hours*, in which CBS correspondents parachute in to cover a story for two days, grew out of a 1986 drugs special called *48 Hours on Crack Street*. Now, under his guidance, *48 Hours* itself has spawned two new reality-based programmes which Mr Heyward hopes will show that non-fiction produced by the network news division can rival the entertainment wing, and the independently produced "tabloid TV" shows.

**T**he first, *Whose Side Are You On?*, offers viewers the pleasure of participating vicariously in a half-hour debate on one of the burning issues of the day. The show, which is getting a three-week tryout, begins with the anchor presenting a current news story. Two lawyers, aided by six-minute video segments, then take opposing sides in the discussion, and they are judged by a panel of "leading American citizens" ranging from the editor of *New Republic* magazine, Fred Barnes, to the erstwhile tennis star Arthur Ashe.

The first three programmes deal with whether a California man should have been convicted of



Deal purpose: CBS's Andrew Heyward spurned a top job on straight news to make "reality programmes"

murder for aiding the suicide of his terminally ill wife, whether rape victims should be named, and whether public pressure should outweigh a criminal's right to parole.

Mr Heyward's second new offering is an eight-part pilot series called *Verdict*, in which the audi-

ence is treated to an examination of real-life trials, including interviews with the participants.

Initial reaction to the new direction taken by the once grand CBS News, home of Walter Cronkite, has not been terribly favourable. Tom Shales, a critic for the *Washington Post*, summed

up widespread reservations: "If it's going to take programming as suspect and glib as *Verdict* to keep CBS News in operation, maybe it would be just as well to have a going-out-of-business sale and say the hell with it." The debate seems worthy of *Whose Side Are You On?*

## MEDIA WATCH

### Getting in first

THE BBC, under the scrutiny of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for using its television airtime to advertise its magazines, is test-marketing its own insurance scheme, Telecover, by sending mailshots to all those who have bought televisions recently. The corporation, which is using TV purchase data provided by retailers to the TV Licensing Centre, admits it is getting information to which rival insurance companies do not have access.

### Karaoke time

KARAOKE moves into the living room this Friday when Lifestyle Satellite Jukebox, the all-night interactive music video channel, launches television's first karaoke service. Viewers with Astra dishes need only dial 0839 656565 to vote for their preferred "Laserkaraoke" tracks, attach a microphone to their television and sing along to the viewer-selected videos, which flash the words on screen. The service runs from 10pm to 5am Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

### Good news

ITN has made a small operating profit for the financial year ending July, despite a £250,000 overspend on Gulf war coverage over and above the extra £5 million allocated last January by its ITV company shareholders. The profit, however, does not include £4 million exceptional costs relating to the recent 137 redundancies or the shortfall in revenue from the new Gray's Inn Road premises.

### In the grove

THE BBC's Lime Grove studios were closed only last month and already a day-long tribute to their role in the formative years of television is planned. An untransmitted pilot of a *Dr Who* programme - *The Unearthly Child* - as well as episodes from *Quatermass II* and *Dixon of Dock Green* will feature in Grove Day, which BBC2 will broadcast on August bank holiday (Monday, August 26).

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

## The truth about politics

**Why political parties are exempt from the usual advertising constraints**

we find to be an impartial outside adviser to decide on the truthfulness of facts in political ads?

But what of the 108 complaints about Saatchi & Saatchi's ad? Inevitably, if you ask the man in the street if political advertising should be truthful, he would say yes, Miss Crawford says. But explain to him the practical difficulties of enforcing such a decision, and he would reconsider: "In practice he would understand it's almost impossible."

She says that almost none of those complaining said they had been misled; rather, complainants feared that others might be misled, an unprovable assertion.

Barry Delaney, a creative partner of Delaney Fletcher Skymaker Delaney and Bozell, who has worked for Labour on several election campaigns, agrees with Miss Crawford that the public is less susceptible to brain-washing than some believe. "Political parties are found out if they consistently lie," he says.

Miss Crawford cites the case of Nalco.

In May, the town hall union ran a £1.5 million campaign attacking the government's spending levels on the social services. Nalco was forced to admit that it had used models in the ads instead of genuine victims of government cuts, after the models complained to the press.

Chief among the ASA's critics are anonymous "insiders" at the Labour party's headquarters in Walworth Road, who express themselves keen to see the ASA sharpen its claws, though the official Labour party position is that it would be

almost impossible to enforce "truthfulness". Tory Central Office's only comment is that the ASA is an independent body.

Lord Thomson of Monifieth, a former chairman of both the ASA and the Independent Broadcasting Authority, says: "The ASA was right to stick to its guns. If there was a regulatory body for advertising to adjudicate on factual statements in political advertising, it would be a total quagmire. It would be inappropriate within the principles of a democratic society." The only people calling for such regulation are individuals within the Labour party, he says. "And as soon as the Labour party became the government, they would be as reluctant as anyone to set up such a body."

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## &amp; BRIEFLY

## Morris glancing

AN EXHIBITION entitled *The Art of Design*, devoted to the Victorian fabric designer William Morris, begins today at the London showrooms of Arthur Sanderson and Sons. The exhibition coincides with Sanderson's launch of the Morris & Co Volume IV collection of fabrics, wallpapers and coordinating Jacquard tapestries, produced from documented designs held in the Sanderson archives since Morris & Co went into liquidation in 1940. Sanderson, which had previously printed fabrics for Morris, took over all the blocks at that time, and many of them will be on show in its "Morris room" over the coming month.

## In the bag

THE accessory designer Lulu Guinness was not yet pregnant when she saw the need for a "baby bag" designed for mothers rather than babies, eschewing pink and blue bunnies. The result is a baby changing bag with padded mat in a dramatic gold and black heraldic fabric by Celia Birtwell. In a plastic coating that gives the effect of patent leather, the Lulu Baby Bag costs £49.35, including postage and packing, from Alison Hargreaves Associates, 51 Hanbury Street, London E1 5JP (071-247 9195), or direct from the Celia Birtwell shop at 71 Westbourne Park Road, London W2 (071-221 0877). And now that Mrs Guinness is about to become a mother, watch out for some chic, co-ordinated baby stings and other nursery accessories.

## Mayan craft

GUATEMALAN crafts and textiles will be on display in the basement exhibition room at Liberty, in Regent Street, London W1, from Friday until September 7. Embroidered, woven cotton shirts by the Mayan Indians—considered among the best weavers in the world—cost from about £40, and woven lengths of fabric from about £30.

V.McK.

## Doing an Italian job on the English

An Italian has joined the ranks of foreigners taking an affectionate swipe at our little ways.

Stephanie Calman prepared to be provoked

THE first flat Giuseppe Severgnini rented in London was in a basement in Notting Hill. He had not been there long when a bunch of people turned up from Chicago, introducing themselves as the Jimi Hendrix fan club. Apparently he was occupying their idol's last home. For a writer, it was an auspicious start.

Signor Severgnini had envied British journalists long before being posted here as a special correspondent for *Il Giornale*, the Italian quality daily newspaper, in the 1980s. "The sheer variety of your sex scandals is quite wonderful," he says appreciatively. "Italian politicians are the most boring in the world. And if you do see them with a gorgeous brunette in intimate circumstances, you don't report it: it would only gain them more votes."

Signor Severgnini's first interview here was with Christine Keeler. Shortly afterwards, he left the Hendrix shrine for a coverable flat in Kensington Church Walk, married his Italian girlfriend Ornella, and set about observing the wild life in earnest. Bold expeditions were made to derelict inner cities, gentlemen's clubs, pubs and racetracks. He observed the natives eating, talking, dressing and falling down drunk, and has now gathered his findings into a book titled *Inglesi*. In returning here to publicise—or defend—it, he takes his courage in his hands. The Italians loved it, but then it was not about them.

"The British are not very communicative. They love tradition and read a lot, but don't waste too much." So runs one of many provocative Severgnini statements which hide among the thoughtful, meticulous reportage. After digesting them, it comes as a surprise to meet a lively but not loud, charming but not flirtatious

man in a sober grey suit and glasses. At 34, Signor Severgnini disingenuously cultivates the demeanour of one of his favourite English tribes, the young fogies. He comments that "the British eat worse than they would like to, but much better than we think they do". If he is anything to go by, the Italians dress worse than we think they do, but better than he says they do. However, he is quick to establish his dubious status as an untypical Italian, citing by way of comparison the Milanese banker who turned up for work in the City in a patterned jacket and brown shoes. "They asked him if he was going shooting."

*'The British eat worse than they would like to, but much better than we think they do'*

We are eating lunch at Chelsea Harbour, the sort of expensive, sterile development Signor Severgnini might well have documented. Our exact location is Deals restaurant (co-owner, Viscount Linley), a ranch-style room with soul music on the speakers and farming implements on the walls. The menu offers Korean, Thai and burger food under such headings as "Raw Deals" and "No Big Deals". What is his assessment?

"Why an English viscount would open a western diner in the middle of a post-modern marina designed by architects in blindfold is beyond me," he says. He cannot pronounce "viscount", but makes a wonderful lunch companion. Looking out at the view of the railway line, he imagines passing travellers must be tempted to throw things. Possibly, he says, that might account for the farming implements. None the less, he is grateful for the invitation "to see the remains of an ancient civilisation: the 1980s".

We had set off from the Reform club and come here, around London in 80 days, in keeping with Signor Severgnini's career, which is a testament to the benefits of straying from the beaten track.



Trying to communicate: Giuseppe Severgnini, back in London this week to enjoy some more of his favourite British reticence

After just two weeks on *Il Giornale*'s foreign desk as a graduate trainee, he rode across Poland on a motor bike in 1982 at the time of martial law. The next ten years saw him posted to South Africa, the Middle East and most of Eastern Europe, including Moscow, to which he has recently returned. He is, he says, prepared to endure the numbing tedium of central committee briefings in order to gather the social nuggets which his readers like.

"Lately there's been a spate of thefts of red flags in Moscow," he confides delightedly. "The new craze this summer is for red

trousers, and there's nothing else to make them out of."

His favourite thing about China—which ranks equal first with Britain in most-demanding postings—is the Chinese version of Monopoly. "It comes with a card inside which says 'Warning to children: this game is a capitalist plot!'"

And what is his favourite thing about England? Coming from a country where people are "too lively and too sincere", he claims to treasure reticence. "Ask an Italian how he feels, and you'll get a history of his digestive problems. A Brit will say 'very well, thank you' or, if he is dying, 'not too bad'."

From the candlelit east London mansions of the new Georgians to Newcastle in an Austin Montego, Signor Severgnini has covered the (post-modern) waterfront. He has a crazy fantasy that one day the English will fit their bathrooms with mixer taps "instead of one scorching, one freezing", and start using their bidets. Until then, he will continue to collect English words for lavatory—29 so far—and would like to welcome his proud, rain-soaked English friends into the European Community.

"Europeans think the British don't want to join them because they feel superior. It's actually

because they're terrified of anything new. Look, you've survived losing the pound note and television the Commons. Going into Europe, you'll be like a kid going to the dentist. We'll drag you screaming and kicking—and afterwards you'll say 'Oh, was that it?'"

In the meantime, he is proud to display those of our qualities which have rubbed off. "I'm quite good at lying now; I can be polite to people I hate. And," he adds, arms folded, "I only speak with my hands at weekends."

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Never mind the stereo—the family pet is often one of the biggest bones of contention when a couple splits up

When is a dog no longer a dog? When a couple is divorcing. Then, according to British law, it becomes an "asset of marriage" and is no more significant than the record collection or the spice rack. The Belgians see it differently. There a pet is treated like a child, and in the event of divorce one of the partners will gain custody.

This week the Belgian appeal court has overturned a divorce ruling that gave Emile Desmet a right to take his mongrel Ben for walks every Saturday, so long as the dog did not come into contact with his new girlfriend's dog. Mr Desmet's wife, Marianne, who received custody of Ben, appealed against the decision

and has won the right to keep Ben to herself. The court ruled that the wife "lives in a large house and the presence of a guard dog is necessary". After the court case Mme Desmet said: "My dog is my whole life. During our ten years of marriage, it was only Ben who was faithful to me."

After children, the family pet can become the most potent instrument in the game of possession-splitting that often occurs when a couple divorces. The house, monetary assets, furniture and cars are difficult enough to divide but ownership of the family pet is a particularly emotive subject. Like children, pets can prove tricky to divide.

Jane Simpson, the vice-chairman of the Solicitors

Family Law Association and a partner at Manches and Co, a London firm of solicitors, believes that divorcing couples fight over money or possessions more than over pets, but that fights over animals are often more bitter. "Dispute over an animal is either very poignant or very vicious. If a couple are having a particularly acrimonious divorce, a dog is often a better weapon than an antique set of drawers," she says. "In a recent case a couple with no

children were fighting over their sheepdog. The husband finally took the dog and said that his wife could see it every Saturday, but a friend had to deliver the dog because the husband refused to see his wife."

British courts will not normally make a special ruling for an animal unless there is a financial interest, perhaps involving a greyhound or a racehorse. Ms Simpson says: "Courts are only really interested in an animal if it has a

high breeding value or is used in racing. Then it is easy because they can just split the value of the animal in half, with one getting the animal and the other getting financial compensation."

Tony Gibe, the chief superintendent of the RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre, wants the courts to decide who should have custody of the family pet. "Pets are often the innocent victims of matrimonial disputes, just like children, and should be

treated in the same way. The judge should call on evidence as to who cuddled the pet more or looked after it better before deciding who should be given custody."

He says that he regularly receives animals from couples who are splitting up. "It happens all the time and if you are not careful you get involved in a domestic dispute. One half tries to dispose of the animal without telling the other. Then the other half storms in and tries to get it back again. The poor animal is caught up in a tug of war. We have to tell them their dog is not a three-piece suite."

The animal can often suffer more than its owners, according to the zoologist James Serpell, who is the director of

the Companion Animal Research Centre at the Cambridge Veterinary School. "If a couple are arguing the animal will often pick up the vibes and will start to behave badly long before the split-up," he says.

"Animals are creatures of routine they hate change and upheaval. If a couple divorces and the animal loses one of its owners it often becomes neurotic. It may feel unloved and use extravagant behaviour to draw attention to itself, or it may show phobic reactions and become afraid to go outside. Dogs in particular often become moody and aggressive and need a lot of support during a break-up."

ALICE THOMSON

## A-levels: how to keep a level head

How should families react when the exam grades are posted up tomorrow?

NEARLY a quarter of a million 18-year-olds have been biting their nails this week, waiting for the results of their A-levels, which become available tomorrow. The strain has been more subtle, but equally telling, on parents, who can lose a sense of perspective, together with their sense of humour, when results are not as expected.

"Nobody is ever content with failure, but in my experience the pupils don't see it as the end of the world if they have to take another year and re-sit exams," says Professor Lea S. Pearson, the chief psychologist and policy adviser in assessment and achievement for the education department of Birmingham city council. "The pressure often comes from families where there's a strong tradition to follow a particular profession, such as medicine, or to go to a particular institution."

Professor Pearson remembers "saying all the wrong things" to her daughter, now in her mid twenties, when her A-level results were poor. "She was able to walk through O-levels without doing any work and refused to believe that it was different with A-levels. I encouraged her to do a repeat year, which was probably a mistake because she was still in the same negative groove, so the results were equally bad. I now realise that you've got to be sure they

are motivated to go back or they might be much better to do something completely different for a year."

Her daughter invoked what she believes is a common defence mechanism employed by disappointed exam-takers at this stage. "She said she didn't care, that I overvalued university education."

Later, she is happy to report, her daughter wanted to do a degree in archaeology. She took another A-level and got a good result and a university place as a mature student.

Dr Peter Tomlinson, a psychologist who is a senior lecturer in the department of education of Leeds university, has a daughter who did A-levels two years ago. "She did what she thought was well enough, but I think she didn't work hard enough," he recalls. Such clashes of expectations are common.

He hopes that most parents, by the time the results arrive, will have demonstrated to their children that "we are relatively relaxed because we know that there are various paths, and you can always try again or in a different way."

Dr Tomlinson says it is vital to work out alternative plans of action in advance of receiving results. "You should have talked through different scenarios in advance, and know what options are open in the event of results that



Great expectations: but twins Philip and Ben Rowlands would prefer their parents "not to say much either way"

are not what was expected.

"The one thing you don't ever say, or feel, is: 'This is it. If you don't get it now you'll never get it'," he warns. "And there is no point in acting disappointed. It's important to remember that a rebuff at this stage may not be 'the end'."

The temptation to say "I told you so" must be avoided at all costs. "You can always say it to your estranged spouse instead," says Dr Tomlinson, who is aware of the additional frictions that can arise when parents are divorced, and a child's poor examination results can be blamed on the custodial parent.

Professor Pearson says that even between parents who are not divorced, recriminations such as "If you hadn't let her stay out so late" or "If you had spent more time helping him" are common.

Dr Tomlinson's hunch that it is better for parents to be

"cool and warm" (not too emotional, but supportive) is borne out by A-level pupils.

Philip Rowlands, who has the offer of a place at Bristol university provided he gets two Bs in his history, geography and economics A-levels, says: "I wouldn't like my parents to be that pleased or upset either way, and they're usually pretty reasonable. It's my life and I've got to take the responsibility for it."

HIS twin, Ben, who hopes to go to Nottingham university if he gets two Bs and a C in history, geography and sociology, agrees. "I'd like them not to say much either way. It's up to you to do well and it's your own fault if you don't."

Being the parents of twins taking examinations has additional stresses, as Philip and Ben's mother, Cherry Rowlands, a teacher and an educational adviser to the Twins

and Multiple Births Association (Tamba), discovered during their GCSEs.

"Philip has always been more academically inclined than Ben, but we found Philip's results weren't quite as good as we had expected, although we didn't say that at the time. Then we went to get Ben's and they were much better than we'd hoped. It was very important to speak to them separately about how they felt, rather than comparing results—to show a child you value him for himself, not because of how he shapes up against his brother."

Rachel Hudson, a secondary schools consultant to Tamba, teaches A-level pupils as well as having identical twin sons doing their GCSEs. "What's terrible is if a break is forced on twins who have continued through school together simply because of different results in A-levels," she

says. "Twins need special support from their parents and their twins, because there is always a danger that you would play down the success of one because the other has not done well. But you've got to celebrate with the one who has succeeded."

Professor Pearson and Dr Tomlinson agree that such a celebration is warranted, while drawing the line at other "carrots". "With the first standard assessment course for seven-year-olds starting this year, I've already come across those who'd been promised up to £50 if they did well," Professor Pearson says.

Finally, it is encouraging to hear Professor Pearson say that "whatever you say or do in the heat of the moment, if you've got a reasonable family relationship you should be able to retrieve things."

VICTORIA MCKEE

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EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: THEATRE

# Terpsichorean turns for a political animal

Playwright David Pownall has created two shows working in collaboration with dancers. He tells Matt Wolf how the experience has benefited him as an author

While theatrical commentators frequently lament the state of new writing in British theatre, few playwrights working today bother to focus on what Konstantin in Chekhov's *The Seagull* refers to as "new forms": a textual adventurousness or marriage of disciplines that frees the genre.

Occasionally, however, playwrights do rework the parameters of their craft, although such experiments usually originate outside Britain: after winning a best play Tony award for his Broadway hit *M. Butterfly*, writer David Henry Hwang in 1989 moved into performance art. Off-Broadway with *A Thousand Airplanes on the Roof*, collaborating with the composer Philip Glass on a piece of high-tech music theatre. Examples of similar endeavours are rare, partly because such innovation is not encouraged by the theatrical establishment.

But few dramatists have worked with dance, a medium thought to be anathema to the traditional, text-based world of theatre. David Pownall, the 53-year-old Liverpool author of *Master Class*, is one of them. By coincidence, this year's Edinburgh Festival and Fringe provide the forum for two of his plays which incorporate the medium of dance.

The first of his current ventures, *Dinner Dance*, is a so-called "dance play" written for the contemporary dance troupe The Kosh, appearing on the Fringe. The second, *Nijinsky: Death of a Faun*, part of the main festival, is a solo piece written for a dancer, Nicholas Johnson, who has never acted.

Pownall is better known for his plays about heavyweight historical

figures — Stalin, Prokofiev and Shostakovich in *Master Class* — and his stage adaptations of novels such as *Pride and Prejudice*, than for his interest in an art form, dance, about which he has been ambivalent: "I was never terribly interested in ballet because I found it frustrating inasmuch as it never seemed to go far enough in terms of telling the story or the emotions it could express."

His attraction to dance came via the possibilities of performance art, although Pownall remembers feeling wary when The Kosh asked him to collaborate with them on their 1987 work, *The Edge*. "I wrote a poem for Michael [Merwin, the Kosh's producer/director] telling him how impossible it was, but Michael is a very patient and persistent man. He said: 'Let's experiment,'" Pownall recalls. The finished product, he felt, "was a wonderful realisation of what I had imagined. They had added so much without any damage to the text and the context; I was seduced into the power of the dance."

As for new forms, Pownall embraces any and all redefinitions. "The times are pressing for different forms that will rejuvenate the dance and the theatre and between them both will come a new form that will give people what they want from live performance. Too often, going to the theatre at the moment can be a pretty dismal picture, because it is so restricted and seems to have

been so debased. Maybe the public is saying: 'We want something else; we want you writers to try harder. Show us things we don't see, things we can't feel. Take us somewhere else.'"

*Dinner Dance* grew out of conversations with the eight dancers in The Kosh who knew the setting they wanted but needed a spoken text to go with it. The result, says Pownall, plays off the antithetical energies of a kitchen in the first act and a dance hall in the second. "A kitchen is a very restricted area; it's a place where people retreat to," he explains, whereas "to me, all my life, a dance hall has been a place of release."

His task was one of "weaving the story through these characters from the kitchen and their day-to-day concerns and frustrations into the dance hall where they would realise everything within themselves, only in terms of an expression that was barbaric." Pownall argues that the dance, far from being subservient to the word, is in fact "launched by the word. The demand for a story in theatre is great, whereas ballets in general have very simple, even flimsy, stories which are enormously embellished by grace and beauty and finely tuned movement." The aim of *Dinner Dance*, then, is to fuse the two — to "blend the strength of the theatre story into the dance at just the right level."

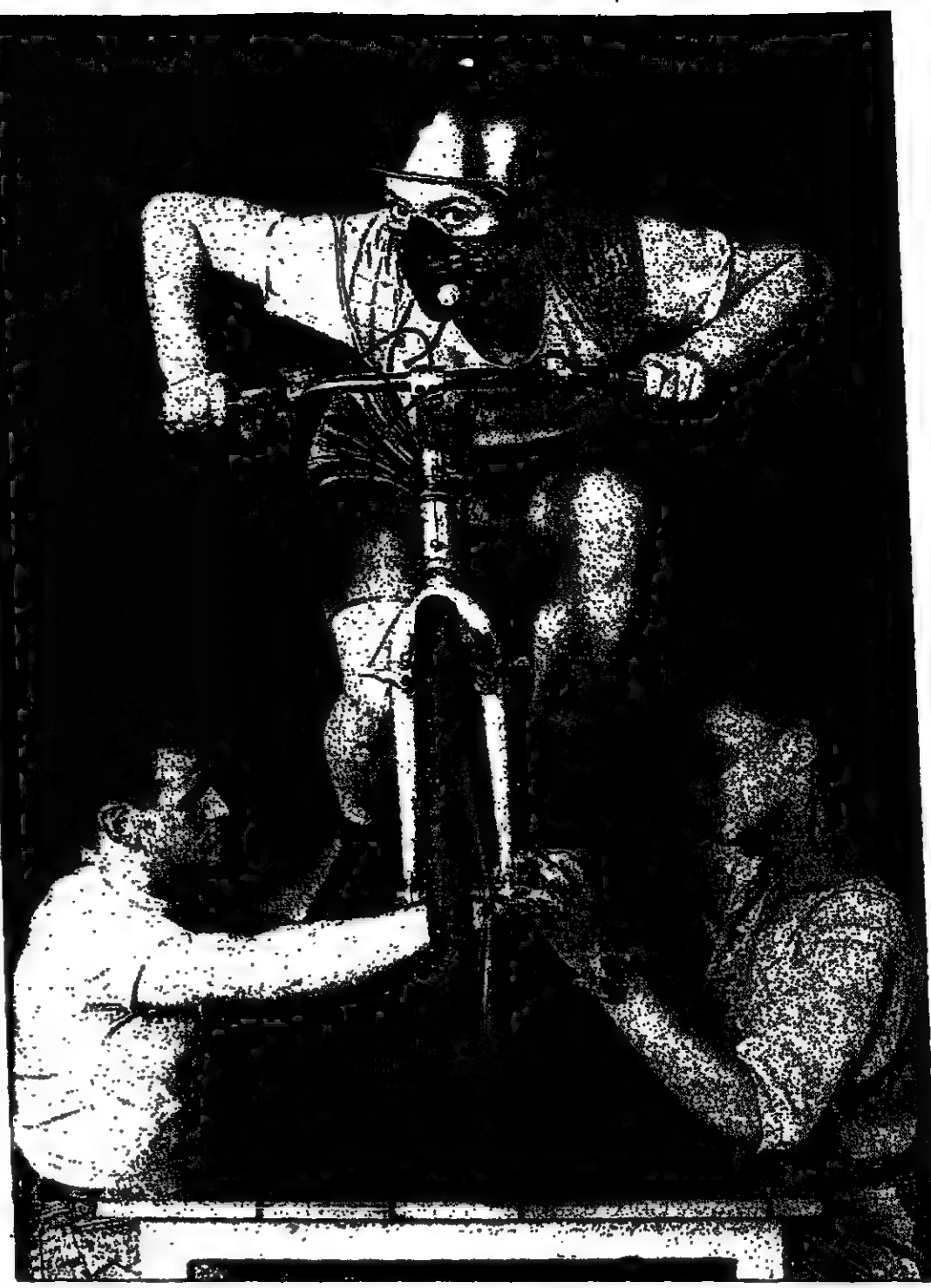
"I gave the dancers names, and I gave them histories and I gave

them characteristics. *Dinner Dance* has a linear story line which is approached in their kind of way; it's not the way I would ever create a stage play."

*Nijinsky: Death of a Faun*, on the other hand, is the latest in a series of solo plays which Pownall, a co-founder of the writers' company Paines Plough, has been writing on commission since 1975. Nicholas Johnson came to the author requesting a play about Nijinsky with which to launch a career in the theatre. The assignment posed its own challenges: "In a solo play, you don't think in the same terms," says Pownall, whose previous solo play, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern*, was written for National Theatre actor Stephen Boxer. "There is so little you can do on the stage that you've got to charge every word, every move that the actor can make. It is in its nature minimalist; you've got to get intensity on stage all the time."

Pownall's topic is "all the forces that went first of all to create Nijinsky and then to destroy him". It is also about a kind of discipline which only a dancer acting a dancer could bring to the part. "There's something about going through the gruelling process of preparation to be a dancer and what it does to your relationship with yourself and your own body and own psyche. There's a kind of suffering in being that stern with your body and with a certain concept of beauty; this is what Nijinsky was interested in."

Next, Pownall returns to the political realm of *Master Class* in a play, *My Father's House*, about Neville and Joseph Chamberlain, due at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre in October. Writing about



The Kosh in David Pownall's *Dinner Dance*: "blending the strength of the story into the dance"

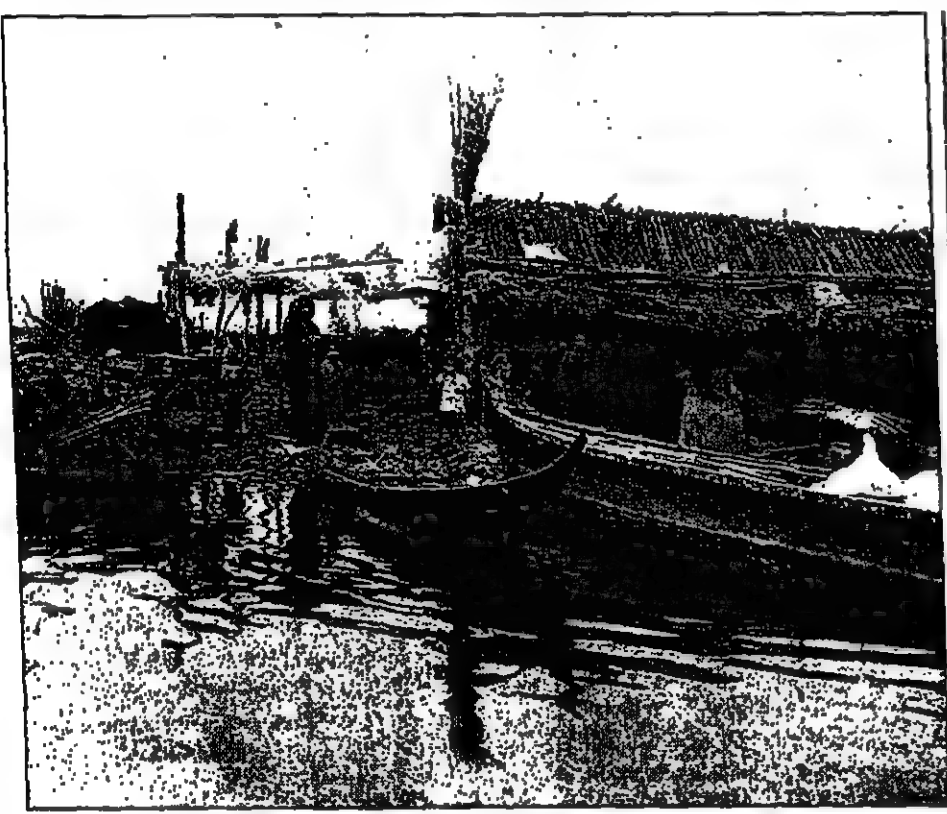
real people, he says, "is a relief from creating fictional characters. It gives you a new flavour and uses a different part of your mind." But the author is convinced that his unexpected immersion in the

world of dance has changed him as a writer. "It has made me ask questions about what I was writing in terms of imagining the actor on the stage; the writing's much more flexible now."

• *Dinner Dance* is at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh (031-226 3257) until August 24. *Nijinsky: Death of a Faun* opens at the Playhouse Theatre, Edinburgh (031-225 5756) on August 28.



Pownall: changed by working in dance



Inheritors of the legacy: Marsh Arabs of southern Iraq, near the site of the ancient city of Uruk, as featured by Michael Wood in his new series, *Legacy*

## Sumer is icumen back, as far as southern Iraq

A few years ago, David Attenborough rounded off his famous *Life on Earth* series with a momentous analogy, in which he imagined the history of the earth as a span of 24 hours. "It is now 10.45pm," Attenborough said (or something like it), "and at this point the dinosaur rules the earth." It was fantastically exciting: the whole of "life on earth" turned out to have been packed into the last 90 minutes; and it was only with the seconds tick-ticking towards the witching hour that Primitive Man finally came skidding into view. It was a near thing. While Big Ben struck midnight in the background, you could imagine Primitive Man holding his wristwatch to his ear, and looking puzzled.

Last night saw the first part of *Legacy* (Central/ITV), a new Michael Wood series on world civilisations. Treading through heaps of sand, bones and pottery, Wood entered the site of the ancient city of Uruk in southern Iraq, where the whole idea of cities was born, 6,000 years ago. Mesopotamia (the land lying between the Tigris and the Euphrates) was the cradle of civilisations; the site of the Garden of Eden. Where the walls of Uruk once stood, there are still 50-foot mounds, whipped by a hot wind; around it, the lone and level sands stretch far away.

Wood scrambled in the surface dust as though it were a bran tub, and from it pulled out respectable prizes from Mesopotamia's extensive past: Parthian coins, broken tiles, shards of the earliest Su-

merian pottery. It was so exciting that he seemed almost hysterical. "This is 6,000 years old!" he asked, showing a piece of pottery to the Uruk watchman. "Ha ha ha ha." In terms of the planet's history, 6,000 years might be a few seconds; yet to see evidence of Sumerian civilisation simply littering the ground was breathtaking.

The idea of the series is to "look in the present for clues about the past, and in the past for clues about the present." With this thesis in mind, Uruk was definitely the place to start. It was here, apparently, that the wheel was invented; astronomy, literacy, education and cartography all took their first steps at this eastern reach of the Fertile Crescent. Strangely enough, it was in Uruk too, that someone came up with the notion of dividing time into sixtieths, so that every time we look at the clock and say "Heavens, is that the time?", we are unknowingly indebted to Iraq.

But the point about the Sumerians was that they were

a gloomy bunch, who guessed that civilisation was a Pandora's Box. Like ourselves, they shook their heads and said, "It can't go on like this." And of course, they were right. Life in the fast lane would entail penalties; there would be tears before bedtime.

Gilgamesh wanted immortality, but could not have it; and Uruk itself expanded so quickly that its economy collapsed. Looking at the turmoil of Iraq's subsequent sorry history (and the world's), you could only regret that Gilgamesh had not driven a slightly better bargain.

Wood's journey through Iraq's past was made on the eve of the Gulf war, so its revelations of a people forever submitting to sadistic dictators and brutal invaders were spiced with a little short-term hindsight about the happenings since Christmas. The reign of Saddam, in the context of 6,000 years, may be a very short one, yet the lessons of history give little comfort.

Saddam's monuments are unlikely to be reduced by time to a small pile of stones in a desert. He has rebuilt Babylon, for a start, signing his name on every fifth brick. He is like Shelley's Ozymandias, but without the necessary irony. When he says, "Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair," he really means it.

### VIDEOS: OPERA

## From murky depths brave voices gleam

The clear intention of the best of the summer releases of opera on video is to provide a seat in the stalls. There is no longer the pussyfooting approach: a horridly memorable version of the Glyndebourne *Machete* started with helicopter shots of the serene Sussex countryside while the orchestra rapped out Verdi's blasted heath music. Now the conductor steps into the pit, the overture begins and at the close all take their curtain calls. And that is how it should be, even if the camera does sometimes have to try and penetrate the murk on stage.

For much of its length (220 minutes) the Vienna *Lebenslied* is distinctly dark. After his arrival on a silvery swan it is not too easy to discern all the features of Plácido Domingo's knight until the end of Act II. But there is no mistaking the voice in one of his rare excursions into Wagner. Covent Garden was promised the Domingo *Lebenslied* a couple of seasons back, but alas it did not happen. This Vienna performance is good enough to raise hopes that *Tristan*, so long considered, will materi-

alise one of these days with London on the itinerary. Cheryl Studer, whose current absence from Covent Garden is inexplicable, is the radiant Elsa. Villainy is well looked after by Dunja Vejovic (Ortrud), with many a baleful look to camera, and Harunur Welker (Telramund). Robert Lloyd as King Henry completes a starry cast. But best of all is the conducting of Claudio Abbado.

To hear Abbado in opera it is usually necessary to go to Vienna, and to hear Riccardo Chailly (other than in concert), Bologna is the required destination. In his home house he makes out a powerful case for Verdi's early opera *Giovanna d'Arco*, with another soprano that the Garden appears to be ignoring, Susana Dunn, in the title role. The Bologna *Giovanna*, staged by film director Werner Herzog,

is almost as dark and formalised as the Vienna *Lebenslied*, but there are moments in the plot which could do with a little veil being drawn over them.

Verdi took a risk in letting his heroine abide by a vow of silence in Act II, when Joan of Arc is accused of witchcraft. Susan Dunn, looking and sounding a little like Margaret Price, certainly makes up for it in the other acts with some singing fit for a heroine. The tenor role of Charles VII is no more than adequately taken by Vincenzo La Scala, but Renato Bruson shows just how well he can handle Verdi as Joan's double-dealing papa, who is mightily relieved at the end to see his daughter go up not in flames but raised aloft to heaven by a band of angels. From the baroque theatre of

Schwetzingen, near Darmstadt, come two slices of the so-called Rossini "Ring". The director Michael Hampe has staged these early one-acters in similar reception rooms, where the world outside is seen through tall glass doors.

In *La cambiale di matrimonio* (*The Marriage Contract*), Rossini's first performed opera, a Canadian merchant (Stook) has come to town for a bride but does the right thing when he discovers his intended loves someone else. *Bruschino* — sunny Italy outside this time — is the more familiar and accomplished piece, in which the girl once again ends up in the right arms. The singing is decent rather than startling, with the buffos, Alberto Rinaldi and (especially) Alessandro Corbelli, taking the honours under Gianfranco Giordano.

Callas admirers will pounce on the tape from French television of her belated debut at the Paris Opera on December 19, 1958. Once the commentator's sycophantic celebrity-spotting is out of the way, Callas is in for a hefty and impressive sing. Norma is there, plus Leonora (*Trova-*



Callas: hefty programme

ture) and Rosina (*Barbier*). There follows Act II of *Tosca* in tatty sets and with a Cavaradossi (Albert Lance) who sounds as though he is singing in French rather than Italian. But never mind, pair Callas with Gobb's Scarpa and the combination is unbeatable.

JOHN HIGGINS

### Epstein in for Wales

THE American Matthew Epstein has been appointed as general director of Welsh National Opera, succeeding Brian McMaster who is leaving WNO to take up the directorship of the Edinburgh Festival. Epstein, who is from New York, is currently vice-president and special consultant to Columbia Artists Management and is artistic adviser to a number of opera companies in the United States. While serving as artistic director of the opera programme at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, he was responsible for inviting the Welsh company to make its American debut there in 1989. Epstein takes up his new post in Cardiff on August 28.

### Geordie Golem

JOHN Casken's opera *Golem*, with which the Durham University lecturer last year won the first Britten Award for Composition, is to be toured round Britain in the autumn. Fittingly, this new production — to be unveiled at the Newcastle Playhouse on October 17, then taken on an Arts Council Contemporary Music Network tour — will be a collaboration between two Tyneside-based companies: the Northern Sinfonia and Northern Stage. Casken has strong ties with the Northern Sinfonia; last month the or-

chestra gave the premiere of his *Cello Concerto*, with Sinfonia director Heinrich Schiff playing the solo part.

### All their own

AFTER two years of healthy sponsorship, the exhibition of the best work by this year's graduates of five of London's leading art colleges opens tomorrow despite having no sponsor. Anna Kindersley, organiser for the Federation of British Artists, says students are hanging their own work, while a friendly graphics company is providing the catalogue. The exhibition, *Into the Nineties*, is at the Mall Galleries (071-930 6844) until the end of August.

### Last chance...

AT ITS best, Russian acting has a generosity that makes the British seem visually and emotionally stingy; and the Lenkom Company's production of *Too Clever By Half* at the Empire, Edinburgh, is Russian acting at its best, raising Ostrovsky's tale of an unscrupulous opportunist into a big, bold picture of spiritual destruction in society at large. Last chance to catch the satiric revelry is on Saturday. Tickets are available from the Edinburgh Festival box office on 031-225 5756.

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### RECORDS: CLASSICAL

## Choice of rakes

Struss: *Ein Heldenleben*/Don Juan. Royal Liverpool PO/Posek. Virgin VCT 8171-2.  
Struss: *Don Juan/Aus Italien*. Cleveland Orch/Ashkenazy. Decca 425 941-2.

graced by lovely violin playing from Malcolm Stewart, while both works abound with fine wind solos and, of course, the usual resplendently ringing horns.

Ashkenazy's Cleveland players are given a rather edgier ambience, better suited

to this conductor's nervy manner. Faster passages in this *Don Juan* seem to go faster than Pesek's, but slower ones are correspondingly slower.

The bulk of the disc is taken up by a gloriously colourful performance of the four-movement *Aus Italien*, a work written just before *Don Juan* in 1886-7, but inhabiting an entirely different world where nature, not man (or rather self), is the hero. Consequently, favours of Mendelssohn and Schumann permeate moments of this score, which can be safely recommended even to those for whom Strauss otherwise leaves a bad taste in the mouth.

STEPHEN PETTIT

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## Don't junk the ads

Michael Grade on telly-bashing

On August 9, a headline in *The Times* read: "Ban urged on junk food TV adverts". This is the latest evidence of a growing tendency among politicians and special interest groups to blame television for those problems that will not go away. They then seek to impose restrictions on broadcasting. The reasons are transparent. The politicians want to deflect criticism and be seen to be doing something, but most of all they want to avoid the really tough decisions. Interest groups just want publicity.

Take the so-called Sinn Féin ban: if Parliament really wants to deny publicity to terrorists and their supporters (even those elected through the ballot box), it has power to proscribe the offending organisations. But because it cannot bring itself to do this, it stops the broadcasters from transmitting direct speech, a rather feeble way of being seen to do something, and ignores the damage to freedom of speech.

The health lobby is quick to exploit this trend. *The Times* headline about junk food arose from a report in *The British Medical Journal*, which contained recommendations by the Medical Research Council to help the government reach its targets for a better national diet. In the report, Sheila Bingham concludes that food rationing and taxes on saturated fats and sugars are probably politically unacceptable. The council then leaps to the conclusion that there should be a ban on television commercials for some foods and drinks. Why?

If consumer health measures, however desirable, are politically unacceptable, why should the television have to bear the consequences? Banning television ads achieves nothing. Most television advertising is about protecting or increasing brand share of an existing consumer market. Preventing such advertising would do nothing to change people's smoking, drinking or eating habits. So there is no benefit in gagging the messenger. Worse, it encourages a false sense of security among the consumers.

The habit of blaming television has now spread to Brussels. Aware of "widespread public concern" about alcohol abuse, the Eurocrats are threatening moves against alcohol advertising on television. As in all such cases there will be no effort to invest in positive education about the effects of alcohol, and no effort to restrict sales: no attempt, that is, to address the underlying problem. Once again, television is the scapegoat.

This is a quick fix, without any benefit to the consumers it pretends to protect. Broadcasters and advertisers must resist more effectively. And it is time newspapers stopped colluding in this attempted deception, however much they stand to gain from displaced advertising revenue. Newspapers of all qualities seem unable to resist anybody up on their hind legs baying "television done it, guv".

The author is chief executive of Channel Four.

The American way of dying, with its endless wrangles over rights, comforts no one but the lawyers, says Alan Ryan

## Whose death is it anyway?



A choice of ending: Dr Jack Kevorkian's suicide machine

of resuscitation, or have their dying needlessly prolonged. There is plenty of incentive to make a Living Will. For anyone not so armed, doctors — and in rough cases, courts — must rely on imprecise and insecure questions about what patients would have wanted if they had been asked. And where the answer is uncertain, the odds are that hospitals will play it safe by doing too much, rather than too little.

Two other matters cause more argument, though perhaps less misery. The first is the withdrawal of treatment from patients who are not exactly terminally ill, but who are terminally comatose, and thus incompetent. The most famous case was that of Nancy

Cruzan, who had been in an irreversible coma for years, though the only "treatment" she needed was artificial feeding. Her family wanted her to be taken off her feeding tubes and allowed to die. Eventually, their wishes prevailed: the Supreme Court established that the state of Missouri had a legitimate interest in trying to keep Nancy alive, but that if she would clearly have wished to die rather than live in a coma, her wish overrode the state's interest. Cases like this are famous because the sufferers are young people who might live for decades. But these are much less common than cases about senile patients.

These cases raise nasty questions. Is denying food and drink to

a relative who is not terminally ill different from licensed murder? That a patient's quality of life is about as bad as can be imagined is not a sufficient answer. What about deformed and mentally ill patients in institutions? Their quality of life is hardly better than Nancy Cruzan's was, but outside Nazi Germany, this has not been considered sufficient reason to let them die.

Ideally, a loving family should make such decisions, helped by kindly physicians, rather than lawyers and courts. But nobody trusts families either. If the life of a senile and comatose parent is at stake, who is to say if the children are moved by his or her welfare, or by mere convenience, or the wish to inherit? Who can rely on the family to be of one mind, rather than torn between the right-to-life movement and the Hemlock Society? Too many grandstanding lawyers and politicians in America drag such cases into court to promote their own careers; but they do not create the conflicts they profit from. They only stir an already bubbling pot.

It is not surprising that so many Americans are thinking about how to pre-empt the whole business, and this is where the second large question has been raised.

What should doctors do for patients who wish to end it all themselves? Public sympathy is clearly on the side of doctors who help their patients to find a comfortable way out.

Jack Kevorkian built a suicide machine in the back of an old van, to deliver a painless, self-administered lethal injection. A 53-year-old woman who was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease used it and died, but when Kevorkian was prosecuted he was acquitted. More recently, Timothy Quill, a doctor who wanted the subject discussed in public, described in a medical journal how he gave barbiturates to a leukaemia patient, with precise instructions on how large a dose would kill her. He was cleared of any wrongdoing by a grand jury, and was never prosecuted.

In America, where individual rights are the common coin of politics, people want to take control over the time and manner of their death. But here, too, the image of a good death has changed beyond recall. We increasingly envy the person whose threescore years and two are terminated by something sudden and painless. No longer believing that the time of our dying is the time to reconcile ourselves with God and family, we hope to be bundled off the stage before we are aware that our time is up.

The author is professor of politics at Princeton University.

## Hounded by ignorant jealousy

Labour's hunting ban is just class war in a new guise, writes Jonathan Clark

Yet again, Labour has brought forward a policy statement that gives comfort to the anti-field-sport lobby and has promised a free Commons vote (its result hardly in doubt) on fox, hare and deer hunting with hounds. *Wildlife in the Countryside* is a carefully nuanced (or cynically compromised) document, but although the sentiments are old they now have a quite new significance.

In retrospect, it is clear that the advance of socialism in 20th-century England was eased by a tacit but effective cultural concord. Labour's Bismarckian agenda for state control of coal, steel and transport would triumph; in health care and education, collectivist provision would be accepted as a consensus. In return, many features of the Establishment culture were little disturbed.

The monarchy went untouched, on condition that George V (metaphorically as well as literally) donned a red tie to receive the first Labour prime minister. The House of Lords had already been disarmed by a militant Liberal party and now bought survival at the cheap price of a few Labour peers. Smart regiments were not demoralised; the Inns of Court remained a patrician preserve. The established church mouthed the catchwords of the day, and was condescendingly tolerated. Eton, Henley and Ascot, and all they symbolised, were never confronted by English socialism. It was busy elsewhere.

Socialism's core was its formula for economic ownership and control. But as these formulae fail, socialists are driven back to other positions, forced to re-emphasise them and make them

intellectually central. So class survives not as "location within the means of production", but as autonomous lifestyle. Collectivism survives not as fraternity but as moral authoritarianism. Equality survives not as the enhancement of the material living standards of the respectable poor, but as a reason for extending parity of esteem to those whom Clement Attlee would have scorned as deviants and drop-outs.

The bulk of Labour voters retain the ordinary decency of the English, but the intellectual breakdown of socialism means the subtle transformation of Labour values into an endorsement, indeed a triumphant affirmation, of the underclass against the respectable. The recent proliferation of "street people", especially in Labour-controlled cities, may reflect more than unemployment and the closing of mental hospitals. The young and able-bodied who choose that lifestyle seem to be upheld by a crusading zeal.

They need cultural targets, and if semi-detached respectability is all too dull, foxhunters in pink coats could hardly be better. For huntmen not only symbolise a mounted ruling class, a uniformed caricature of the Norman Yoke, they stand on the wrong side of the chasm dividing city and country, and arouse the instinctive incomprehension of the Labour intelligentsia. Worse still, they are apparently unkind to furry animals.

The use of hunting as an ideological lever is not entirely new. Once, the countryside echoed to the clash of poacher and gamekeeper. The notorious Game Act of 1671, seemingly a natural expression of the Restoration ascendancy of squire and parson, was the first of two dozen 18th-



The unelectable in pursuit of the unpalatable: Labour is again proposing to ban hunting

century Acts which effectively limited hunting to men of property and led to a sort of guerrilla warfare across the shires. Only the smashing of a whole social order let through the Game Reform Act of 1831 on the back of parliamentary reform.

Poachers were as cruel to game as gentry hunters, but that is not germane. Nor is the discovery by a recent historian that poachers were more affluent, and the laws

less oppressive, than legend depicted. The point was the clash of values that the laws expressed.

Anyone, not only property owners, could legally hunt foxes, which were classed as vermin. Despite the advance of democracy, the 19th century became the golden age of the hunt, immortalised in the writing of "Nimrod" (Charles Appleby) and Robert Surtees. Such works as *Jorrocks's Jaunts and Jollities* (1838) and *Mr*

*Sponge's Sporting Tour* (1853) epitomised a lifestyle. Its poet laureate was Surtees: "Untin is all that's worth living for... It's the sport of kings, the image of war without its guilt, and only five-and-twenty per cent of its danger." The thrill was not in the cruelty: "It isn't that I love the fox less, but that I love the 'hound more'." There had always been a moral critique of hunting, though anciently because of its effect on the

emotions of the hunter, not the sufferings of the animal. Clergy were forbidden to hunt by the Council of Agde (406 AD), though later they started hunting small animals (foxes and hares), until that Enlightenment figure Pope Benedict XIV (1740-58) banned the practice for clergy once more. For laymen hunting had always been all right, but gradually it came under attack from 18th-century sentimentalists, such as the poet William Cowper.

By the 19th century, the critique had taken anthropological dress. As the historian James Anthony Froude put it, "Animals never kill for sport. Man is the only one to whom the torture and death of his fellow creatures is amusing in itself." This was scientifically inaccurate (the fox, for one, does not share Froude's complacency), but the critique of the hunter had great moral force.

A society was secularised, the force of Froude's critique grew. People ceased to believe that God had given to Adam and Eve "dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." The wholly irreligious part of our political culture finally extends its ideas of rights even to animals (at least, to mammals; Labour voters are still keen anglers).

In the mental world of the new egalitarianism, this ascription of rights has added significance. It becomes a critique of the fox-hunter, his class, his lifestyle, his smugness, his self-esteem, his traditionalism, his superb Englishness. It becomes an aspect of the self-assertion of the underclass, and of the values of an intelligentsia that needs to find a new definition of the class war. In that at least they may be succeeding.

The author is a fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.

...and moreover  
ALAN COREN

Last night I went into the restaurant business. It was worse than dreaming I went to Wandering again. It could be the worst thing that has ever happened to me on Finchley Road. And worse yet is the likelihood that though I was in it for only two hours, the trauma will dog me for the rest of my days; because you can take the boy out of the restaurant business, but you cannot take the restaurant business out of the boy.

I did not intend to go into the restaurant business. I intended merely to go into a restaurant. I did not even intend to go into the restaurant I went into, but the one I did intend going into was shut, so I crossed the road and went into this other one, which as a matter of fact was one I had always intended not going into. That is because it is called Just Around The Corner, and, well, you know how it is, you make little vows to yourself in the course of a life, and one of mine is a determination not to condone rosey commercial jokes. I spent a year in San Francisco not going to bars called My Place and My Apartment and My Pad and so on, which left very few bars to go to, and, 30 years on, I do not wish to hear myself saying "Let's go to that place Just Around The Corner."

I was not proved wrong. Except that, last night, the rosey joke did not stop at the fascia. It did not stop at all. You had to get out for the joke to stop, but you could not get out until you had condoned it.

The place, mind, turned out to be a comfy enough mock-Alpine

spot, whose proprietor was a delightful simulacrum of Bob Hoskins, though even smaller; if Hoskins were a *matryoshka* doll, you would have to uncover at least two heads before you got to the chap who now bobbed before us with crudities and menus. So it was all right; until the menus.

My companion looked at hers, then at me. (I call her that because it is what you do when writing about meals — an odd convention, as if food critics were forced to hire people from the back of *The Lady* to push them and read Trollope to them as they gorged.) "It calls itself," she said, "the only restaurant in the world without prices."

I opened mine. Nothing was costed. Grim news: what could it imply but that they catered only for those who did not care what they spent? If you have to ask, you can't afford it. Then again, do you offer proof of this by getting up and slouching out?

I ordered crab profiteroles and a veal escalope, my companion opted for smoked salmon blinis with caviar, and a stuffed trout. Now, the food wasn't bad — despite the unease which goes with not knowing how much money you have in your mouth at any given moment — but that is not the point. The point arrived with the bill, which itself arrived only moments after I had called for it so quickly indeed that we had not yet come to a conclusion as to why West Indian cricketers were named after English villages (we had recently stayed in Courtney Walsh, which boasts an even

prettier church than Curtly Ambrose, though Clayton Lambert has, of course, the better pubs) and may never get to the bottom of it, now.

Beats when I turned the bill over, all other thoughts fled. There were no prices on the bill, either. I called the waitress. "You pay what you think the meal was worth," she said. Try it. Try guessing the weight of a profiterole's worth of crab, setting the guess against a cost of £6.50 a lb at Waitrose, pricing the skill involved in cobbling choux pastry, and adding it to the amount of gas required to cook it. Try recalling the quality of earlier-eaten smoked salmon and adding it to the value of uncounted lumpfish eggs. How much is a blini? How many chef-minutes go into stuffing a trout? Was it a farm trout, or had the proprietor caught it, in which case there was his petrol to take into consideration, never mind lost flies? What is the mark-up on wine I can buy at four quid? Were the crudities free, or did we have to assess the value of a radish?

"Then there's his rent," said my companion, after half an hour.

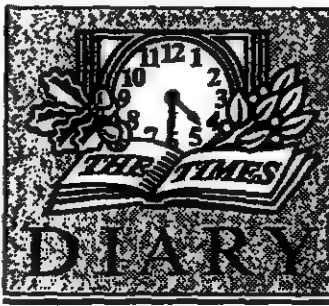
### Heat in the kitchen

JOHN MAJOR may have ruled out ministerial changes before the next election, but a reshuffle of his kitchen cabinet may be on the way. Judith Chaplin, his political secretary, is expected to be moved out of 10 Downing Street before polling day.

Chaplin, a high-profile appointment at a time when Major was under fire for not having women in the cabinet, is spending far more time than was expected in Newbury, which she is contesting in the next general election. Far from being a walkover with its 16,600 majority, Newbury is proving resistant. Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, the long-serving Tory MP with a strong personal vote, is retiring as support for the party is on the decline. At council elections in May, 12 Tory councillors lost their seats, giving control to the Liberal Democrats.

Chaplin's position at the prime minister's right hand has not impressed the local electorate, which is used to having an MP in the constituency all year round. This means that Chaplin, a former adviser to Nigel Lawson, and tipped as the first woman Chancellor of the Exchequer, has been forced to spend more time away from her Downing Street desk than either she, Major or his other advisers would like. She is determined to hang on to the job, and has suggested that another person be appointed to work with her.

There is increased speculation about the role of David Cameron, head of the political section at Tory Central Office research department, who is credited with improving Major's performance at prime minister's question time. With Chaplin inevitably spending even more time in Newbury as the election draws closer, Cameron is being tipped as the man to watch.



● The BBC is taking no chances with the Edinburgh Festival. The corporation, fearful that its round-the-clock coverage will have an adverse effect on the health of staff, has sent a memo to its Edinburgh studios reminding them that a message is available today to ease aching bones. Volunteers should contact the head of administration, the aptly named Isobel Boddie.

### Leader of the pack?

MOST Western hostages imprisoned in the Middle East are the last to know when their incarceration will end. But Ian Richter, jailed by the Iraqis five years ago, seems to be the exception. In a letter to Roger Cooper, the journalist who was imprisoned in Iran for five years, Richter has spoken optimistically of his future.

Cooper says: "It is very cheerful, witty and obviously designed to get past the prison censor with the minimum of fuss." Richter, like John McCarthy, is aware of the campaigning that has been going on in Britain for his release, according to his letter. "He compares the way that his wife, Shirley, has campaigned tirelessly for him to the work my brother did on my behalf," Cooper says.

Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, raised the possibility of Richter's release on Sunday. But was Richter ahead of the pack? Cooper received the letter three weeks ago.

### Lyrical delight

DAME IRIS MURDOCH is to receive a new honour: a collection of her poems, *A Year of Birds*, is to be set to music. Malcolm Williamson, master of the Queen's Music, is composing a symphonic song-cycle based on the volume, which was illustrated with wood-engravings by the late Reynolds Stone, who created the device above the leading articles in *The Times*.

The composer, who lives at Rook's Nest House, Hertfordshire, once the home of E.M. Forster, says: "When I asked her if I could set her poems to music she replied: 'Yes. Yes, in Italian'."

Murdoch says: "It's a lovely present that someone wants to



make music out of your poems." Her play, *The Servants and The Snow*, was turned into an opera for which she wrote the libretto. Will she attend the premiere, in Williamson's local Gordon Craig Theatre? "Heavens, yes."

### Cashing in

WHILE Virginia Bottomley, the health minister, gloried in yesterday's announcement of an extra £3 million in government cash for young homeless people, were the environment and social security departments spitting blood?

Sir George Young, the junior environment minister, has written press releases lauding his department's commitment to the homeless. The DSS is also fond of trumpeting its role. With Young on holiday this week, Bottomley seized the initiative and the health department, nominally responsible for only the NHS, captured the headlines. "We are not treating anyone's toes," said the department. "The initiative is part of our response to the Children's Act, which we introduced." For once, the DoE and DSS had nothing to say on the homeless.

● Is President Gorbachev ready to make up with the aristocrats of the pre-revolutionary era? Another Gorbachev, it seems, has already started doing so on his behalf. Sergei Gorbachev, who will dance with the Moscow City Ballet in Britain later this month, will star with a certain Dmitri Romanov, namesake of the Tsars.

### Beyond hope

MICHAEL HESELTINE has drafted in the services of advertising agencies to help the government regain the Green initiative. With one eye on the "Save It" energy campaign, the DoE recently ran a competition for the best slogan to accompany a £10 million energy conservation campaign, which Heselstine will unveil at the Tory party conference.

He is delighted with Collett Dickinson Pearce & Partners' winning slogan: "HOPE" (Help Our Planet Earth), which doubles as "Husband Our Precious Energy". It will appear in radio and television commercials.

The DoE refuses to discuss the agency's fee for the report, which has just landed on Heselstine's desk. Not everyone is impressed by it. Some officials have dubbed it pretentious. Others want to know which other planet they are meant to be saving. Mars?





## NEW RACKETS FOR OLD

Government policy is to foster "contracting out" of local authority goods and services so that councils become enablers rather than providers, in order to eliminate the economic inefficiencies of direct-labour schemes. The essential condition of this is proper regulation, so that the private sector is restrained from fixing prices and carving up contracts. Contractors must be forced to compete. Otherwise all that is achieved is the substitution of one racket for milking the local tax-payer by another.

The logic of the cartel is simple. Several contractors decide life would be easier for them if they secretly agree not to compete. Either they all charge the same, or they decide in advance which of them is to win a particular contract, and the others submit high bids. Members of the cartel have little to lose: if found out, they merely have to stop what they are doing, and at worst may have to pay compensation for the higher charges they have levied.

Just how prone local government work is to the disease of cartelisation has been demonstrated by the reports yesterday and today in *The Times* on cartels among local authority suppliers. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has found evidence of cartels not only among glass merchants but in road-surfacing materials, insulation work, ready-mixed concrete, fuel oil and roofing. At least direct-labour departments provide some oversight so that cartels can be spotted.

The OFT has only modest success in detecting and breaking them, and earlier this year called conferences of local authorities to alert council officers to the evidence that cartels are operating. But the government appears reluctant to equip the OFT with the full range of powers the government itself deemed necessary in its white paper in 1989. Until those powers are in force, cartels will continue to bedevil local government contracting. Manchester council reckons that it paid £123,000 over the odds for glass

because of a cartel; Northamptonshire and Buckinghamshire county councils have yet to quantify what excess they paid for supplies of concrete but talk of hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The present law requires anti-competitive agreements to be registered. If against the public interest, the agreement is outlawed. This cumbersome procedure puts the sanction behind the registration process rather than against the cartel directly. The white paper proposed that cartels should simply be unlawful, those who took part in them should be fined, and the absurd rigmarole of registering them in order to ban them abolished. The OFT would be given greater powers of enforcement, including the right to apply for a warrant to search premises.

The European Community already has similar powers to suppress and punish international cartels, but properly leaves those entirely within one country to the domestic authorities. Part of the argument for the white paper's proposals, advanced in 1989 by the then trade and industry secretary, Lord Young of Grafton, was that these new powers — modelled on the EC's anti-cartel rules — were necessary as a preparation for 1992.

The European single market is now only four months away, and still the present secretary, Peter Lilley, is saying no more now than Lord Young said then, that legislation will be introduced "when the parliamentary timetable permits". Yet the white paper promised rapid action: "The government intend to make the benefits of the changes available as early as possible."

Cartels are profitable for those who take part in them. The disincentives at present are hardly formidable or easily enforced, and until they become so, cartels will continue. Mr Lilley must have his bill ready for the start of the next parliamentary session and government business managers must make room for it.

## BUT WHO HELPS ITALY?

Illegal immigrants are humans, not animals. Italians themselves have been the first to be sickened by the Italian authorities' callous treatment of the latest wave of Albanian boat people. The 17,000 or more people, a handful of them armed but most merely desperate to the point of panic, who broke through Italy's naval blockade last week, certainly posed a logistical challenge. And Italy cannot be blamed for repatriating them (although some genuine political refugees have almost certainly been sent back).

Italy, however, has considerable domestic experience in coping with natural disasters. These people did not have to be penned up for days in broiling heat without shelter or sanitation and with precious little food. Nothing can excuse early breakdowns in medical care which forced doctors to treat victims where they lay on Bari's concrete quayside, or the deployment of untrained troops rather than police trained in crowd control. Much of last week's brutality had the appearance of a deliberate policy.

Nor was the latest exodus from Albania a surprise. Last June, following a three-week general strike, a coalition government was sworn in to replace the communists who had won elections as recently as March. For once, the epithet "government of national salvation" meant precisely that. It is now trying to create free markets against a background of collapsed industries, rural chaos and hunger everywhere. Saying that Albania was "one step from catastrophe", its deputy prime minister, a democrat, appealed for Western expertise as well as emergency aid. The EC promised a little and delivered less.

The Italian government correctly says that it is not responsible for Albania's collapse, that it has accepted 20,000 Albanian refugees this year and that Europe's "front line" states should not be left to carry the burden of mass immigration alone. This week, Italy is making a good faith attempt to repair the damage to its reputation as a

civilised country. A mercy airlift has begun. Italy has promised to meet Albania's basic food needs for the next three months and to help rehabilitate its industry. All this will cost at least £70 million. The European Community, by contrast, has merely agreed to double its emergency aid, to £2.8 million so far this year. Britain, insulated by distance from Balkan storms, has provided no emergency aid at all. No wonder Italy's interior minister says that "European solidarity is just a lot of hot air".

People do not lightly uproot themselves from their countries. Western interests lie firmly in bolstering the faith of Eastern Europeans that their futures can be secure at home. To date, the statistics do not justify public fears of uncontrolled immigration to Western Europe. The numbers have been steady at around 1.2 million a year since 1973. The EC cannot be a fortress, and needs foreign manpower to compensate for its ageing demographic profile. But if economic reforms fail, far more might stream into Western Europe than it can absorb, creating an ugly backlash of intolerance.

Albania is the easiest Eastern European country to help because it is small and undeveloped. If the EC cannot meet this challenge, what hope is there for immigration policies generally? Such policies cannot be insulated from economics. Well-targeted aid to help these countries onto their feet is needed. So is an enlightened trade policy.

The Community should offer the East Europeans far more generous access to its markets than has so far been promised for the goods — agricultural produce first and foremost — in which they are most competitive. If that drives further nails into the coffin of the Common Agricultural Policy, this can only be a bonus. Better far than shipping them EC food surpluses at taxpayers' expense, and closing the frontiers to their disillusioned peoples.

## BONNIE CARBUNCLE

The Prince of Wales has himself in another architectural stew, this time over the design for the new Museum of Scotland. He resigned as president of the museum's patrons just as the winning design, from the little-known firm of Benson and Forsyth, was announced. The prince made no comment on the proposal. His complaint appears to be that the judges made their choice of both shortlist and winner without any public consultation.

Selecting designs for public buildings is not for the faint-hearted. The saga of the extension to London's National Gallery, in which the public was consulted but had its preference turned down by the environment secretary, deferred the Scottish museum trustees. While the difficulty in London was not so much the quality of the favoured design as the defect of the brief — the Sainsbury family eventually paying and thus choosing both pipe and tune — the process eventually used was, as in Scotland, one of shortlist and selection by closed panel.

This is clearly not the way to avoid controversy. The trustees might plead that they went to the widest possible canvass for entries, 371 from 21 countries. The problem for the prince appears to be that the public were not involved in the process until after the winner was announced. And the architects involved, led by Sir Philip Dowson, were not of what might be termed the "Prince's persuasion" in a stylistic conflict that is growing fiercer by the month.

The Benson and Forsyth design is unlikely to have been one that the public — or he himself — would have chosen. When the public is asked for a view on architectural

style it tends towards the "post-modern" and the neo-classical: witness the popularity of the new proposals for Paternoster Square in the City of London. The new museum design's austere Modern Movement revivalism, vaguely reminiscent of Le Corbusier's Ronchamp chapel, reflects a Scotland of bleak castles and towers rather than Edinburgh's gracious classicism.

The trustees must have known, when they selected for their advisory panel an essentially neo-Modernist group of architects, that they would not get a flurry of columns or a sloping roof. Such is the passion of the style war in architecture, like that between Goths and Classicists in the last century, that each side barely regards the other as proper architects. The problem for the neo-Modernist faction, as Prince Charles has frequently pointed out, is that it has yet to win public affection. Hence the apparent advice to the Scottish museum trustees not to go to public vote but to let the panel decide a winner before any "consultation".

The same faction, in a deft manoeuvre by Sir Richard Rogers, recently hoodwinked a naive Labour arts spokesman, Mark Fisher, into promising open architectural competitions for important public buildings. This extension of public design to a wider group of architects is admirable. But no mention was made of letting the public choose from shortlisted designs. Once the profession has set out its wares, there is no reason why the public should not express its own stylistic preference, as it would were it a private client. Prince Charles is right to stand out for the public's right to an opinion.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Arts lottery: who should benefit?

From the Director General of the Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts

Sir, The new Foundation for Sport and the Arts must be welcomed, as Walter Ellis rightly does in his comments on the appointment of Tim Rice as its chairman ("Low-brow superstar", August 6). New money for the arts, at any time, under any government, is a good thing.

However, if the foundation was launched by the pools promoters to forestall a national lottery which could have provided £200 million a year for the arts, then our welcome is somewhat muted. Twenty million pounds, rather than £200 million, adds up to a lost opportunity.

Lotteries should not be feared; the success of the UK Charity Lotteries "Money Match" has benefited 13 arts groups already, with more to come. We must not carp, therefore, and if some see the new foundation as a new business sponsor, so be it. There are some questions to be asked, however.

The Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts (ABSA) works closely with many sponsors in developing their strategy for the arts. Like others, therefore, we are interested to know what will be the foundation's policy — how will they

decide what to support, whose advice will they seek?

Distinguished boards of "great and good" need a highly trained, professional secretariat to ensure that money is distributed wisely and fairly. Will there be such a secretariat? From whom and by whom will it be appointed? The arts and sports communities deserve and expect the best advice to be sought before decisions are made.

It will not be easy for the new foundation to put its money where it is most needed, assuming that is what it intends to do. We should not care whether Tim Rice personally prefers Tom Jones to Kiri Te Kanawa — his personal tastes should not have any bearing on where or to whom the foundation gives its money.

Professional assessment rather than personal whims and prejudices must be the order of the day. Twenty million pounds may not be much money in the totality of the needs of the arts, but used well it can be a life-saver.

Yours faithfully,  
COLIN TWEDDY, Director General, Association for Business Sponsorship of the Arts, Nutmeg House, 60 Gainsford Street, Builders Wharf, SE1, August 8.

### Minister questioned on asylum rights

From Mrs Antonia Hunt

Sir, Mr Peter Lloyd, Under Secretary of State at the Home Office, defends the government's proposed restrictions on asylum-seekers on the grounds that the numbers claiming asylum are "soaring" (letter, August 9). The government, he suggests, will introduce measures so that fewer unfounded claimants "will be able to stay by exploiting delays in the system."

He offers no evidence that this is happening in the UK. Indeed, the evidence not mentioned by Mr Lloyd is that because of the present poor determination procedures, which lack necessary safeguards, some genuine asylum-seekers and refugees have been returned to persecution. Mr Lloyd says nothing at all about introducing safeguards against the possibility of this happening again.

Last week, in a television interview, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees expressed concern that Britain, despite its good record in the past, now intends to opt out of its obligations under the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees. Is that indeed the government's intention?

Yours faithfully,  
ANTONIA HUNT, Coordinator, Charter 87, A Charter for Refugees, 165 Verulam Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Mr Lloyd further claims that, because of delays in his department's processing of the applications, many asylum-seekers are allowed to stay because they have "put down roots" by the time they are discovered to be bogus. If individuals really had the economic motives ministers ascribe to them, delay before expulsion would benefit them. Neither in logic nor in law would it form a basis for permission to remain.

Your leader of August 2 caught the corrupt nature of the government's proposals precisely. They are intended to handicap asylum-seekers and to disqualify their legal advisors. Anyone buying Mr Lloyd's selective version must be considerably dimmer than your readership.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID BURGESS, Winstanley-Burgess (solicitors), 378 City Road, EC1.

From Ms Kate Allen and Mr Ali Sabet

Sir, Mr Lloyd claims that the vast majority of asylum seekers are not "genuine refugees". Organisations working on a daily basis with those seeking asylum believe him wrong.

He says that the levels of misuse of the procedures pose a "huge challenge". Yet when challenged to provide evidence of this widespread abuse, the Home Office is strangely silent. It seems that the politicians have decided to cut down on numbers, regardless of any lack of justice or denial of human rights.

The Asylum Rights Campaign, a consortium of more than 80 organisations, is aware of at least 30 cases of torture, persecuted people who would not have gained asylum in Britain if the current Home Office proposals had been in operation.

The government's plans are extremely worrying. But there is still time for a change of heart. We hope that Mr Lloyd and Mr Baker will abandon the proposed measures which will prevent desperate people fleeing to safety in this country.

Yours etc.,  
KATE ALLEN, ALI SABET, Co-chairmen, Asylum Rights Campaign, c/o 3 Bondway, SW6.

From Mr David Burgess

Sir, I was the solicitor acting on behalf of M, the applicant who recently brought a committal proceeding in the case against the Home Office and its ministers to which Mr Lloyd refers in his letter of August 9. The case concerned the removal of an asylum-seeker by the Home Office, notwithstanding an earlier undertaking to the court by Treasury counsel not to do so.

Mr Lloyd is considerably adrift in his understanding of that judgment. Controversially, the judge held that there was no contempt jurisdiction over the Crown. However, he also held that, were it not for this, he would have found the Home Office in contempt; only with "considerable hesitation" did he accept that it would be wrong to find the Home Secretary in contempt for failing to observe a court order.

### Too fast a track?

From the Director of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture

Sir, This foundation has examined nearly 4,000 patients since early 1986. Unable to find any other way of escaping from persecution, a very large number of these victims of torture have had to flee to the United Kingdom without the correct travel documents.

Many have been unable to describe to officials on arrival the terror and degradation to which they had been subjected; they could only bring themselves to speak of it later in the atmosphere of sympathy and trust provided by this foundation or by one of their own independent legal representatives.

A considerable number had received notice that the Home Office provisionally or actually refused their asylum application, as it did

not believe them to be genuine refugees. Almost without exception they were later permitted to remain, when the Home Office had seen the evidence of their ill-treatment.

We are extremely worried lest, under the proposed "fast track" procedure, the asylum applications of some torture victims, unable to explain themselves initially, may be deemed to be manifestly unfounded.

We fear that they may then be denied access to just procedures, to independent legal representation and to an oral hearing before an appeal tribunal, but instead may face removal by the Home Office on the basis of an immigration officer's report. Are these not the very people we most want to protect?

Yours faithfully,  
HELEN BAMBER, Director, Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, 96-98 Grafton Road, NW5.

### Sensible hill walking

From Mrs Barbara Davis

Sir, Some years ago my son, then in his late teens, was walking alone in the high Lakeland fells. He was stopped by a national park warden to see that he was properly equipped.

Sturdy boots; a sensible but in no way a special anorak; in his rucksack a spare jersey, a crepe bandage, some sticking plasters, sandwiches, a compass, an OS map and a whistle.

He was asked if someone in Borrowdale, where he was staying, knew of his planned route. Everything was in order, except that he failed to have any spare sandwiches.

It really is not necessary to spend about £1,000 on expensive clothing and accoutrements (report and leading article, August 8) in order to enjoy a day's walking in safety in the mountains.

Sound basic equipment, the ability to use a map and compass, a respect for the terrain and common sense should suffice.

Yours truly,  
BARBARA DAVIS, South Knoll, Church Lane, Cley-next-the-Sea, Norfolk.

August 10.

### Rank ignorance

From his Honour Peter Mason, QC

Sir, Rear-Admiral Gueritz (August 7) was unlucky in his salutations. Criminal judges are luckier, possibly because defendants and witnesses have a vested interest in being polite.

When I was a judge at the Old Bailey I was called "Your Excellency", "Your Holiness" and even "Your Majesty". I thought that the defendant was pushing it a bit far, however, when he addressed me as "O Lord Most High".

Yours faithfully,  
PETER MASON, 11 King's Bench Walk, Temple, EC4.

From Air Vice-Marshal H. A. Caillard

Sir, I hope you will permit an Air Force voice to add to your correspondence on ranking service brass. How about Dear Sir Vice Hugh (from a well-known car dealership), Dear Vice Air Admiral and Dear Vice Dear (from junk mailshots), or plain Dear Marshall (from a national charity)?

Yours sincerely,  
ANTHONY CAILLARD, 114 Ashley Road, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.

From the Provost of Leicester

Sir, I have received letters addressed to the "Provost of Leicester" and (my favourite) "the Providence of Leicester".

Yours sincerely,  
ALAN WARREN, Provost's House, St Martin's East, Leicester.

From Mr R. W. Mellor, CBE

Sir, I have just received a letter starting "Dear Mr CBE".

Keeping accurate computer data bases capable of correct form is an arcane matter. At this institution we strive to meet good practice, the wishes of members, and the need for personal security for those in the armed forces.

The challenge presented to our programme by Eur Ing General Sir Thomas Atkins KBE FEng FIMechE is mastered only by real care and competence. The machine can do what we need, it's all a matter of effort.

Yours etc.,  
R. W. MELLOR (Secretary), Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, SW1.

### Blanket case

From Mr Hugo F. Reading

Sir, In view of the renewed interest in the PC Blanket case (Bernard Levin, "Winston Silcott is no saint", August 8) it may be pertinent to ask why it is that only three people were charged.

As PC Blanket's jacket has 11 years, each produced by different weapons, it follows that there were probably at least 11 perpetrators. These perpetrators were principal offenders, either joint principal offenders or joint principals to an attempt in the absence of a common purpose.

Secondary parties and principal offenders are equally guilty. Secondary parties include aiders, abettors, counsellors and procurers (vide Accessories and Abettors Act 1861, as amended).

Videos of the Broadwater Farm incident show numerous people who appear to have been abetting,

that is, instigating, inciting, counselling or exhorting the principal offenders. Thus, it is probable that many people guilty of the murder have so far escaped prosecution.

Yours faithfully,  
HUGO F. READING, 77 Manor Park Road, NW10.

From Mr Edgar W. Goodall

Sir, Bernard Levin is right to protest about the attitude of mind which defends blacks against injustice and police malpractice by asserting that "if they're black they couldn't have done it".

It is a sad fact however that there would seem to be a sizeable minority in our police forces and in the general public taking the opposite view of "if they're black they must have done it".

Yours sincerely,  
EDGAR W. GOODALL, 4 Marisford Court, Rectory Lane, Wallington, Surrey.

### Hollywood succeeds

From Mr Alexander Dale

Sir, When David Robinson compares the products of Hollywood to American junk food ("Must all roads lead to California?", Arts, August 13), he ought also to point out that American films have won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival for the last three years in succession.

It seems that American cinema is not only more commercially successful than our own, but that it is also more innovative, creative and exciting. Unless, of course, the juries at Cannes are also the victims of junk-food marketing.

Yours faithfully,  
ALEXANDER DALE, 45 Portland Road, W11.

### Degree demand

From Mr Bruce Hepburn

Sir, Is it possible that the mushrooming of demand for full-time courses at colleges of higher and further education (Education, August 12) is due to full-time students being required to pay only 20 per cent of the community charge?

Yours faithfully,  
BRUCE HEPBURN, 54 Albion Crescent, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, August 12.

### Diet and hyperactivity

From Dr Alan M. Edwards

Sir, An article by Liz Hodgkinson (Health, August 8) implies that all "junk" foods are bad and can cause hyperactivity and other behavioural problems in children.

Whilst the available evidence supports a connection between diet and hyperactivity, the relationship is very specific to each individual. The fault lies in the individual's ability to deal with the particular food rather than the food itself.

Each patient requires careful investigation to identify the food or foods which adversely affect them.

### Disaster enquiries

From Mr Peter Martin

Sir, The issue of multiple enquiry into fatal accidents such as that of the Marchioness (Mr Napier's letter, August 8) has been gone over, time and time again, during the past many years. As long ago as 1961 the Committee on Civil Aircraft Accident Investigation and Licence Control (the Cairns committee) recommended to the then ministry of aviation possible changes in aircraft accident investigation procedure.

In the course of that report (which was then and remains still a model of both clarity and humanity) the Cairns committee recognised the difficulties of timing which might arise out of the connected need for criminal investigation and possibly prosecution, the coroner's inquest, technical investigation and civil proceedings for damages.

On the subject of the question of precedence as to holding of a public enquiry and a prosecution, the view was taken that it is virtually

impossible to institute criminal proceedings after the conclusion and report of a public enquiry because the adverse findings of the public enquiry may seriously prejudice the possibility of a fair trial later.

Further, it was thought that evidence available to sustain a prosecution is likely to become stale in awaiting the conclusion of the public enquiry.

The Cairns committee took the view that it was important that the cause of an accident be determined without delay and they considered that normally a public enquiry should take place before the institution of criminal proceedings.

However, in cases where delay might be damaging they recommended that one authority, probably the law officers, should decide on the question of precedence. From 1961 to this day, this question has

not been resolved in this country but has been muddled through, at least in aviation cases of which I have some experience, time and time again.

Recently, a comprehensive study of European methods of aircraft accident investigation demonstrated that the problem of double/triple/quadruple enquiry existed as much in Europe as it does here and is no less easily resolved. Some, mild, recommendations have been made to the European Commission for further investigation of this question, with a view perhaps to finding a European solution; but, so far, nothing much has emerged.

Mr Napier's complaints, which in part only I echo, are as relevant to aviation as they are to shipping and other disasters. There is no doubt that there is a room for substantial revision of existing procedures.

Yours truly,  
PETER MARTIN, Peter Cholmeley (solicitors), 28 Lincoln's Inn Fields, WC2, August 8.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).



## SOCIAL NEWS

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr C.E.G. Allen and Miss K.A. Rae**  
The engagement is announced between Charles, younger son of the late Mr Duncan Allen and of Mrs Duncan Allen, of Onslow Square, London, SW7, and Kristin, only daughter of Mr and Mrs James Rae, of New Canaan, Connecticut.

**Mr R.D. Biddle and Miss C.M.C. Bates**  
The engagement is announced between Richard Dale, son of Mr Richard Biddle, of New York, USA, and Mrs Samuel Carpenter, of Fulham, and Caroline Marie-Celine, daughter of Mrs Marianne Bates and the late Mr Michael Bates, of Old Bosham, West Sussex.

**Dr T.J. Blaxter and Miss E.A. Wood**  
The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of Mr Jack Blaxter, of Longhoughton, Northumberland, and Mrs Susan Hughes, of Larnaca, Cyprus, and June (Boo), elder daughter of Mr Michael Blaxter, of Shalbourne, Wiltshire, and Mrs Mary Blaxter, of Dulverton, Somerset.

**Mr F.D. Goddard and Miss J.L. Thorpe**  
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel C.E. Goddard, of Bath, Avon, and Joanna, youngest daughter of Major and Mrs John Thorpe, of Axminster, Devon.

**Mr R.J.A. Gower and Miss G.C. Fursman**  
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Captain J.R. Gower, DSC, RN, and Mrs Gower, of Tribbeck House, Maudslayi, and Gail, elder daughter of Wing-Commander R.J. Fursman, DFC, and Mrs Fursman, of Allie Na Cardoch, Aviemore.

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**Mr A.P. Halstead and Miss S.J. Beattie**  
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Halstead, of Edwinstown, Nottinghamshire, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Mr George and the Hon Mrs Beattie, of Churt, Surrey.

**Mr J.J. Holmes and Miss V.M. Tidmarsh**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Edward Holmes, of 11 Whitehall Close, Terenure, Dublin, and Vanessa, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Tony Tidmarsh, of the White House, Dunley, Stourport-on-Severn, Worcestershire.

**Mr E.R. Lines and Miss R.A. Newrick**  
The engagement is announced between Edward, second son of Mr and Mrs H.R. Lines, of Ash, Kent, and Rebecca, second daughter of Mr and Mrs T.R.G. Newrick, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

**Mr J.P. MacDonough and Miss E.L.G. Stock**  
The engagement is announced between John Patrick, only son of Mr and Mrs D.A.H. MacDonough, of Hampton, Surrey, and Emma Louise Wendoline, only daughter of Mr and Mrs D.G. Stock, of Chislehurst, Kent.

**Mr M. Sanderson and Miss S.H. Brook**  
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of Mr and Mrs Sandy Sanderson, of The Cedars, Charlton Park Gate, Cheltenham, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs K. Holbrook, of Beaumont House Hotel, Shurbridge Road, Cheltenham.

**Mr A.D. Weddington and Miss S.E. Baron**  
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## OBITUARIES

## MR JUSTICE LINCOLN

Sir Anthony Lincoln, High Court judge, died on August 12 aged 71. He was born on April 7, 1920.

TONY Lincoln was an unusual barrister and judge, cast in an old-fashioned mould of a cultured bachelor, conversationalist, socialite and courtier; but with the modern interests of a journalist and something of a social and legal reformer. The law was his workplace, but not the centre of his life. He was also a writer and broadcaster.

His father was "Red" Lincoln, a fiery practitioner of the old school in County Courts and at the Criminal Bar. An only child, Tony Lincoln was educated at Highgate and then went up to The Queen's College, Oxford, with a scholarship. From 1941 to 1945 he served in the Somerset Light Infantry and Royal Artillery. He claimed that he had invaded France by being carried ashore on a stretcher shortly after D-Day, suffering from a bad oyster. After his return to Oxford he was called to the Bar by Lincoln's Inn in 1949. He became one of the numerous pupils of Quintin Hogg, as he then was, later to become Lord Chancellor twice, with whom he retained a close association throughout his life.

Lincoln took silk in 1968. He had a wide and varied international practice, including appearances in Hong Kong, which was then being set up to become a regular venue for successful English siks, and in international arbitrations both as counsel and arbitrator. In 1976 he became a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and in 1979 his former pupil master, by then Lord Hailsham, invited him to become a High Court judge in the recently created Family Division.

He accepted, with some regrets for his international commercial practice. But this was a time when family law was already no longer as much concerned with matrimonial conduct as with disputes



about money; and not yet with the abuse of children. Although he always retained some longing for the Commercial Court, he was happy and successful in his work. It falls to all judges to try hundreds of cases in which the evidence transcends their own personal experience, and in his case this must have been so to an exceptional degree. But he was courteous, practical, eminently sensible in his decisions, free from all pomposity, and with a great understanding of "ordinary" people and their problems. He was never remote from ordinary life. He had been vice-principal of the Working Men's College from 1955 to 1960; from 1969 to 1979 he had been chairman of the college corporation; and since 1963 he had also been chair-

man and a trustee of the Harrison Homes for the Elderly, until he became their patron in 1980. Few of his colleagues at the Bar and then the Bench knew about these interests in his life, although they took up much of his time. There was never a gulf between him and the litigants in his court, however unfortunate their circumstances. At the same time his commercial experience of the law was reflected in his appointment in 1980 to the Restrictive Practices Court, of which he was president from 1982 until his death. From 1981 he was also president of the British branch of the International Law Association and a frequent participant in its conferences both here and abroad.

Another side of his life was concerned with law reform and legal journalism. He

served on the senate of the Inns of Court and Bar for four years from 1976, and from 1979 to 1981 he was chairman of its law reform committee. In 1978 he had also been chairman of the "Justice" committee on freedom of information, which produced a notable report. He wrote a book called *Wicked Libels*, and edited Lord Eldon's *Anecdote Book*. For many years he wrote a legal column in *The Spectator* under the pseudonym "R. A. Cline" together with Robin McKewen. He was a liberal reader, then a regular contributor and ultimately a trustee of the *Observer* in its former ownership, and until the Bench imposed its silence — or anonymity — on his talents he was also a frequent broadcaster on legal topics.

But this was still not the mainstream of his life. He read passionately (except newspapers in recent years), played the piano and loved music. He was a fluent skier, a countryman in his beloved Wiltshire cottage where he was a partner in a large farming venture, an expert shot and fly fisherman, and a constant weekend visitor in country houses south and north of the border, as well as abroad. His circle of friends appeared to be unlimited; he seemed to know everyone. And when he was not out on circuit entertaining high officials and lord lieutenants, or at home in Wiltshire, he travelled the world.

As a gifted bachelor he was in great demand, although he always regretted his unmarried status. Every Christmas, for many years, he would announce to his friends that he would certainly marry during the coming year, and that he already had "several candidates" in mind. But the influence of his independent bachelor way of life had become too strong, and in the end both sides always held back. That was his one great sadness; ultimately he had to settle for some 20 godchildren produced by his friends.

## ANTHONY BLISS



Anthony Addison Bliss, former executive director of the Metropolitan Opera, New York, died on August 10 in Canada aged 78. He was born on April 19, 1913.

ONCE described as "the epitome of cool-eyed patrician self-control", Anthony Bliss was an odd ingredient in the temperamental stewpot of grand opera. Tall, unsmiling, and reticent as a corporate balance sheet, he engendered respect but discouraged affection. Backstage, he was regarded as a symbol of class distinction, but his aloofness was backed by genuine ability. Without Bliss's financial acumen and tough negotiating techniques, it is doubtful that the Metropolitan would have survived.

And though he concealed it well, he was not without a sense of humour. When his third wife, Sally, said of his gourmet tastes: "I could feed him Alpo," Bliss responded by keeping a can of the well-known dog food on his desk from that day on.

Bliss was not only born into the American upper-crust, a graduate of Groton School, Harvard University and the University of Virginia Law

School, but he practically inherited the Metropolitan Opera. His grandfather, who was Secretary of the Treasury under President William McKinley, joined the Metropolitan board of directors in 1893. His father, an associate of J. P. Morgan, followed suit in 1913 and subsequently became president and chairman of the opera company from 1932 until his death in 1949.

Bliss, who had served in the US Navy during the second world war, rising to the rank of lieutenant-commander, was elected to the Metropolitan board on the death of his

father and became its president in 1956. He later took on the post of general manager, but a running feud with Sir Rudolf Bing led to his resignation in 1967. Bing, the Met's impresario, nourished dark suspicions that Bliss was after his job. By the end of their association, it was reported, the two men could scarcely agree on whether it was raining outside.

By that time the Met was already in financial difficulties. A move to the Lincoln Center had left the company with a deficit of \$3.4 million, and the problem got steadily worse. By the time he was recalled as executive director in November 1974 the deficit was \$9 million and growing. Bliss acted swiftly. His appointment had already undercut the position of Schuyler D. Chapin, the general manager, and he was clearly determined to take control. Chapin was quoted as saying that Bliss's function was merely "to find ways to pay the bills". Bliss did not see it that way, and over the next seven months the feud with Bing was replayed. This time, Bliss won. Chapin was fired. Operating on two fronts, Bliss proceeded to cut all

salaries, including his own, by 10 per cent, and to fight a hard-nosed battle with the Metropolitan's labour unions. At the same time he launched an unprecedented fund-raising drive and increased ticket prices by more than 20 per cent. In 1976 he was able to announce "a dramatic turnaround" in the Metropolitan's fortunes, which he reinforced with a \$100 million endowment drive in the early 1980's.

Bliss took the Met into television and the world of video-discs, doing much to increase the popularity of opera. He also established the Met's media and marketing departments, upgraded the technical staff and stage equipment, and modernised the fund-raising machine. Though there were complaints that the profit motive was tending to engulf the artistry of the Met, leading to the soubriquet "The General Motors of opera", there was general agreement on his retirement in 1985 that standards of performance had actually improved. For himself, he denied any artistic acumen. "I never institute artistic decisions," he once said, "but I know what I can afford."

## PROF H. J. POLOTSKY

Professor Hans Jacob Polotsky, emeritus professor of Egyptology and Semitic linguistics at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, died on August 10 aged 85. He was born in Zurich on September 13, 1905.

H. J. POLOTSKY revolutionised the study of ancient Egyptian and Coptic grammar and contributed to an understanding of the basic phonetic structures of some modern south Ethiopian languages previously little known. He also produced fresh concepts in the knowledge of various modern Aramaic and Syriac dialects. He exploited to the full the rich resources in modern Semitic languages available in the Jerusalem area where he spent an academic career lasting fully 60 years. Although he hated counting the number of languages he knew, he covered with ease many scores of tongues of different linguistic affiliations.

Virtually his entire career was spent in the Hebrew University of Jerusalem which he joined in 1934 and whose senior professor he was at the time of his death. He belonged to a band of savants who graced the early years of the university.

Polotsky was born in Zurich of Russian parents. He studied at the universities of Berlin and Göttingen. His attainments in Egyptology and Semitic languages found recognition at an early age. Whether the bilingual background of Russian and German had an influence on his gifts is a question which has often been pondered by linguists, without reaching any clear conclusions. Polotsky was soon attracted to the pursuit of grammar, and the single-minded quest for elucidation of syntactical interconnections and interlocking occupied him to the end.

Few could rival his command of language and of languages in the widest sense. Not only did he know how language works, how linguistic structures, sentences, are held together, but he had looked hard and deep into so many disparate language manifestations that the secrets of syntactical sinews and tendons, and their complex inter-relationships, appeared to have been revealed to him.

While he was fully conversant with contemporary linguistic theories (and had indeed himself operated with some of those techniques which promised to produce tangible results), he showed little taste for theoretical frameworks or methodological processes *per se*. He was suspicious of those innovators who neglected to read what some nineteenth century

scholars had already anticipated; nor did he care for those who were clever at devising systems rather than handling the raw material of language itself. He would never cite a language for comparative purposes unless he had made a thorough study of it himself. Window-dressing by quoting from Japanese or Navaho or Tamil was anathema to him, although he possessed a pretty good knowledge of those languages as well.

His learning and its written expression were so well matched that he hardly ever had to usury a single word he had committed to print. How many other scholars could afford to give permission for the reprinting without correction or qualifying remarks, of a collection of studies which they had composed in their twenties — as Polotsky was able to do?

His personality and style were essentially low-key, and his penchant for self-effacement was evident also in his speech which was halting and hesitating rather than fluent, in marked contrast to the stylistic felicities and the elegance of his performance on paper and in print. Few could equal him in the sheer range of languages covered and in the depth of his penetration into the functioning of the language organism. His talents were, however, not those of the Levantine, but eminently those of the greatest masters of nineteenth century European philological scholarship. His command of most European languages was formidable and so, obviously, was that of the languages that came within his professional orbit. There were well documented instances of his contributions to Greek papyrology or to arcane layers of Turkish and Arabic where those specialising in these fields had failed to come up with the solution and recourse had to be had to the "non-specialist" Polotsky. Honorary doctorates and memberships of some of the most prestigious academies all over the world were showered on him. He was a founder member of the Israel Academy and a corresponding fellow of the British Academy as well as of the London School of Oriental and African Studies and of the Royal Asiatic Society.

He could be harsh in his judgments and was exacting in the standards applied to himself and to his pupils. Few succeeded in penetrating his reserve, but those who did found a rich field of wit, steadiness as a colleague and friend, and human and intellectual resources of a rare quality.

He is survived by his wife Julie and son.

## JASMINE BIGH

R. M. J. Gillott writes

IN YOUR obituary of Jasmine Bigh (July 23) you write: "The corporation had used only men announcers in radio so this was a new departure..." the date referred to being November 1936 when a regular television service was opened. This is not so. In, I think, 1934, the BBC appointed Sheila Borrett as a radio announcer. At that time, 1934, the team of London radio announcers (there was no regular television, only an experimental service broadcast from a small studio in the bowels of Broadcasting House) consisted of Stuart Hibbert (Senior Announcer), Freddie Grisewood, Sheila Borrett and, for a short time, myself. Although uncertain about the exact date, it was well before 1936 that I can remember an evening in the announcers' room when Sheila Borrett felt unwell and Freddie Grisewood and I ministered to her. In those days the BBC supplied a plate of sandwiches, a flask of coffee and a tin of blackcurrant throat pastilles for the announcers on duty after 6pm. Sheila Borrett's debut as a radio announcer predated Jasmine Bigh's in television by about two years.

## Archaeology

## Caution urged on Rectory Farm site

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH Heritage archaeologists have moved to counter what they see as exaggerated media coverage of a recently excavated Neolithic site near Huntingdon. Descriptions of the Rectory Farm dig at Godmanchester as "ancient Europe's most sophisticated astronomical computer" and a "temple of the Sun" are dismissed as speculation in the latest *English Heritage Conservation Bulletin*.

Even the term "ceremonial centre", a non-committal phrase much favoured by archaeologists to denote sites that are clearly neither domestic nor defensive, is used in quotation marks by Fuchsia McAvoy, presenting "a more cautious account of this work" in the bulletin.

The principal features of the site, which has been radiocarbon dated to around 3000-2600 BC, are a large enclosure and a long feature traditionally called a "cursus". The enclosure was 350 by 230 metres, covering some seven hectares (18 acres) on the gravelly of the Ouse valley. It was marked by 24 large posts spaced between 31 and 46 metres apart, enclosed by a bank and ditch. Animal remains were found in association with the ditch and postholes, a not uncommon feature of Neolithic enclosures.

The cursus, with parallel

ditches 90 metres apart, ran southwest from the enclosure but was later in date. It has been traced on aerial photographs for half a kilometre, but is then lost beneath the modern town of Godmanchester. There is also evidence for Bronze Age and Roman structures which, like the cursus, are best interpreted as being religious or ceremonial in function.

The enclosure itself is not defensive, and seems too elaborate for it to have been just a corral for stock, although a large gathering of people with their animals and crops could have been held inside it. The formal plan, unparalleled elsewhere, the ritual deposits of animal remains, and the provision of sufficient space for a sizeable assembly of people indicate that the enclosure "may have been used as a ceremonial centre", McAvoy concludes. "Careful study may show some form of transition from Neolithic ceremony to Roman religion in a single location".

Although continuity in a sacred landscape is quite common from Iron Age into Roman times, and even from the Bronze Age, during which the same locus remained marked as ritually important is unusual, and potentially more significant than some of the wilder claims that have been made about the site.

## Horticulture

## Ornamental grasses thrive among summer flowers

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FUCHSIAS, roses and gladioli are creating the colour at the Royal Horticultural Society's summer flower show, which opened yesterday, while plant collectors from specialist nurseries are providing more subtle interest.

The collection of ornamental grasses and grass-like plants from Hoefer's Plants, of Midsomer Norton, Avon, invariably offers something new. This time it is the smallest miscanthus (normally towering grasses) called *Miscanthus tinctoria* "Nana Variegata", with yellow and green striped foliage. Also distinctive is *Agrostis canina* "Silver Needles", with needle-like green and white striped leaves and suitable for patio beds. Looking exotic, like a deep green bromeliad, is a wide-leaved woodrush, *Luzula sylvatica* "Tauer's Pass".

Another regular exhibitor is hosta specialist Goldbrook Plants, of Hoxne, Suffolk. This exhibit features hostas with scented flowers (they are normally thought of as foliage perennials): "So Sweet", "Summer Fragrance", "Invincible" (whose leaves are slug resistant) and "Iron Gate Glamour", all bred from *H. plantaginifolia* with large white fragrant flowers. Among the exotic collections

are foliage begonias from Dibley's Edenhynd Nurseries, of Ruthin, North Wales. Known for their modern streptocarpus hybrids (which they are also exhibiting), this nursery is now building up a collection of begonias with attractive leaves but which are easy to grow as houseplants. Many have been obtained from the United States and Canada and not been seen in Britain before, such as the rex types "Wanda" with silver leaves densely covered in red hairs, "Venezian Red" with very dark red foliage, and the black-crimson "Red Berry". A limited range of foliage begonias will be offered for sale next year.

Conservatory-plant specialist Noel Kingsbury, of Frampton Cotterell, Avon, is featuring a collection of clematis (*Meristem alenderi*) including "Tito Poggi" (salmon flowers), "Rosario" (bright pink) and "Marie Gambetta" (cream).

The exotic theme is continued with the Saintpaulia and Houseplant Society's competition, which features an especially wide variety of houseplants. The best in the show is an urn plant, *Aechmea fasciata*, with a pink flower head, which gained a trophy for Mrs O. Rogers, of Isleworth, Middlesex. The saintpaulia (African violet) is

"Roseberry" with pink-edged leaves and silky pink flowers, which has earned a trophy for Mrs F. M. Vivian, of Mill Hill, London.

The RHS gladiolus competition is well supported. Mr S. Moorhouse, of Wanstead, east London, has won the Foremark challenge cup and silver Simmonds medal for 12 cultivars. Especially impressive are the large-flowered cultivars "Mont Blanc" (pale white), "Bit of Heaven" (white, with a hint of pink) and "Lowland Queen" (blue pink with red throat). He has also won a Simmonds medal for the best large-flowered spike, with salmon and cream "Finest".

In the RHS competition for ornamental plants an excellent variegated elder, *Sambucus nigra* "Palustris", gained a first prize for Mrs J. Wright, of Cowden, Kent, and has also received an award of merit. The leaves of this handy foliage shrub are heavily spotted with white.

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10 am to 5 pm.

AUGUST 14

ON THIS DAY

1936

Though the need for a new road crossing of the Thames was realised before the second world war it was not until 1963 that the Dartford Tunnel was opened.

## NEW THAMES TUNNEL

The Minister of Transport, in conjunction with the joint committee representing the county councils of Essex and Kent, has made arrangements for work to begin in the next few weeks on the construction of the Dartford-Purfleet Tunnel, which will provide a link between the north and south sides of the Thames estuary.

As a first step it is proposed







## Too sharp for English taste?

The Bruce  
St Bride'sEDINBURGH  
FESTIVAL

WHEN R.S. Silver's tribute to Robert Bruce was given a workshop production at last year's festival, it was advertised as an "unperformed masterpiece", which seemed like calling a dish delicious without having tried out the recipe. All I can recall of the occasion is a phalanx of actors in black jumpsuits, rushing about and roaring in period Scots thick enough to need subtitles. But now Charles Nowosielski and his Brunton Theatre Company have given the play the thorough cooking its proponents have long wanted. It comes with costumes and rather less inscrutable accents, and, if no masterpiece, turns out to be a powerfully felt celebration of Scots nationhood.

Silver, a poet and (the programme tells us) the scientist who brought the first television to Kuwait, wrote the play in 1948, the liberation of Europe in his mind. That may explain why it was not produced at the time. Not everybody would have thought it tactful to draw implicit parallels between the Nazis and medieval Englishmen who, motivated by their country's customary "greed and lust for power", annexed Scotland, massacred the people of Berwick, and committed wrongs and atrocities galore. A sneering lord who comes to arrest a bishop in Glasgow cathedral could be a B-movie Gestapo colonel. Edward I, ranting madly of conquest, might almost be Hitler.

With Edward saying things like

"this stern command we give in clarity of thought secure and fullest presence of our royal mind", perhaps it is as well that most of the play is in Scottish. The less comprehensible it becomes, at least to English ears, the more poetic it sounds. There are oddities of production, too. It takes time to twig that two Bruces are often simultaneously on stage: Alec Heggie, an elderly cove discovered dying in his chain mail on a cathedral altar, and Paul Samson, a blunt, loud warrior-king. Some of the doubling does not make events clearer, either. Should the very recognisable David Monmouth exit as his brother?

Yet Silver's chronicle gradually grasps the attention. That may be hard to understand, given its lack of subtlety, its tendency to get windy, and a visual laboriousness broken by a striking scene in which the woman who crowned Bruce swings onstage in a tiny cage, to be mocked by English soldiers. The explanation can only be Silver's patriotic passion for his hero and what, like it or not, he believes to be his significance. How many kings committed themselves so selflessly to defending their country's freedom? How many agreed to be fired if they did not come up to scratch? And how many treated the English so cynically? Sir Walter Scott, nostalgic for the wild, bold Scotland of yesteryear, would probably have opposed the Act of Union, or so Robert Paterson, playing him in the one-man show, *The Minstrel and the Shire* at Physicians Hall, dolefully confides. "But that cause is long lost," he adds. "The last notes of the old song are dying on a distant wind." And the hardest beside him on stage launches into "Will ye no come back again".

Loss is the theme of Allan Massie's



Crowning Bruce: Paul Samson (centre), watched by Alec Heggie (back)

lost of old songs and an old culture, loss of love and a wife, and, thanks to Scott's business failures, loss of the wealth his novels earned him. It is informative stuff, but windy and lacking in bite. Why stoicism and

dogged good humour are not the most dramatic of qualities, and they are what Paterson grapples for two hours. Oh for the Bruce and his broadsword!

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

BBC SO/Barnet  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

NOT an exclamation, nor an exultant cry to a great city, *O Rio* is simply a River. But in the imagination of 31-year-old Martin Butler, nothing is so simple. *O Rio* is his new orchestral work, commissioned by the BBC, and it flows at the flood tide of the composer's confidence and skill.

At 15 minutes in length, and scored for large orchestra, it is Butler's most substantial orchestral work to date. It both confirms and expands the attributes of his work from the 1980s: the graphic imagery, realised in precisely heard and chosen sonorities, the clarity of design and scoring.

Butler's continuing fascination with a sense of undertow, uniting surface passages of activity, here comes into its own in the person of the river itself. His virtuoso skill at placing and displacing, nudging and manipulating rhythms creates a brilliant, often harsh pattern of light and movement. Rapid transpositions of chord structures interact erratically with circular melodies, and sharp fragments of Latin American song and dance burst from the throats of trumpets.

Desmond Heeley's designs are not

At the heart is a north Brazilian myth. Powerful flute spirits were said to live at the bottom of the river. Butler takes on the challenge of capturing them and learning the power of creation itself. Three flutes, surrounded by the aqueous notes of vibraphone, celesta and harp, echo and reverberate, singing with the most elusive of melodies. This is finally, in the words of the composer, "flung out, alone, a delta".

Mathias Bamert, conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra, seemed a little cautious, and anxious to do what was right by the letter. The spirit of the piece will doubtless be freed in the second performance it richly deserves. What Butler had done so deservingly having his piece wedged into such a warlike programme was not clear. *O Rio* was preceded by Tchaikovsky's *Marche slave* and followed by Respais's *Himmelschloß*, Liszt's noisy battle symphony.

Neither here nor there, much more important, in Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*, did Bamert and his forces seem inspired by the drama. Despite the presence of BBC Symphony and Philharmonia Chorus, and a winning solo from Jean Rigby, the cantata's force was blunted by lack of rhythmic weak accents and poor entries.

JOHN PERCIVAL  
Arts features, page 11

A Tribute to The  
Blues Brothers  
Whitehall

THIS is not a stage version of the film. *The Blues Brothers* is it not a play of any kind. What it is, is the most sticky stage concert since the last Madonna tour, and much more fun. There is even less of a frame to the evening than in *Five Guys Named Moe*, to which this could be seen as a cheeky younger brother, relying on (mostly) black music of more recent vintage than Louis Jordan's. The singers and musicians only briefly pretend to be the American originals. Once the initial pose has been undercut by references to being born in Halifax, the leading men, Jake (Con O'Neill) and Elwood (Warwick Evans), concentrate on singing their socks off in a succession of old songs... characterisation being confined to costume (dark blue suits, pork-pie hats and sunglasses) and verbal sniping. Their singing is in the best white soul tradition, neither hammed up nor reticent, and occasionally inspired.

The songs are all good, from "Hey Bartender" to a blistering "Sweet Home Chicago", and the encore of

"Jailhouse Rock". Maverick items include "Rawhide" and "Two Little Boys", the latter amusingly updated with rap.

Film-maker David Leland (*With You Were Here*) directs with minimum flash (Jake and Elwood enter from the flies) and maximum zest: the peace rarely slackens. The choreography (Carole Todd) is not adventurous, but strongly underpins the music, which is excellently performed by the six-piece band and the singers. The "brothers" are vocally supported by Greg Brown, Ian Roberts and Lisa Spence: all are potential stars. Saxophonist Tony McCormick's arrangements are faithful to the originals, but not slavishly so. In "Soul Man", for example, Cooter's fills note-for-note, but anything else would be criminal.

Verbal and visual humour leaves the parade of oldies; the set (Caroline Amies) is atmospheric and the lighting (Patrick Woodroffe) is superb. Particular praise must go to "Sound designer" Nick Gilpin for clarity, punch and for keeping the volume to a reasonable level. On opening night, dancing in the aisles broke out at several points. This musical maelstrom of a show may not be theatre, but as entertainment it needs no excuses.

TONY PATRICK



Well-suited to the roles: Thomas Edgar and Agnes Oaks

Coppélia  
Festival Hall

IN MOST of the roles they have danced since joining English National Ballet last year, Agnes Oaks's demure manner has allowed her to be overshadowed by the quiet directness of her husband Thomas Edgar, but *Coppélia* this week redresses the balance. Swandila, the heroine, is a spirited creature, and she makes the most of this.

Little touches throughout the evening add nuances to the character: the good-natured way she makes clear that her Spanish and Scottish soles disguised as the doll are done only to humour the old toymaker, for in-

stance, or the glowing warmth she conveys in her wedding duet. Her dancing is crisp and bright, but never coldly glossy; there is always a sense of human feeling behind her actions.

Edgar, too, is well-suited to this work, and shows the modest but dashing manner that has endeared him to audiences in all his other roles. He both acts and dances well, bringing out character and motivation clearly at every point - but his is a generous performance, rightly allowing Swandila to hold the chief interest.

Unfortunately, some of the performance was at best routine. The women in the ensembles, and Philippe Aronno made a desultory Dr Coppélia, conscientious but dull, lacking either mystery or pathos.

Desmond Heeley's designs are not

his best: they look fussy and over-ornate for such a simple story. Nor did the band under David Frazee make the most of Delibes's score. On Monday night the playing was proficient, but this music deserves both more depth and more glitter.

The production, six years old now, was the late John Field's last commission for the company before leaving its directorship, and shows the qualities he always looked for: respect for tradition, but an eye to making the results lively for present-day audiences. There are details in Ronald Hynd's choreography that still jar, but the bass great virtue of keeping the traditional classical dances for Swandila looking as fresh as if they had just been invented.

JOHN PERCIVAL  
Arts features, page 11

## NEW RELEASES

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE YELLOW HOUSE (12) The Donnelly meets Portuguese surrealist in John Clear. Monitors a slow, hypnotic odyssey, featuring the director as a seer. Mysterious nonstop. Rando (01-527 5422).

RETURN TO THE BLUE LAGOON (12) Teenage model Milla Jovovich and little Hank Brown discover the joys of adolescence on a Pacific island. Viscous, predictable sequel to the 1980 Brooke Shields epic. Cannon. Chelsea (01-322 5599).

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES II: THE SECRET OF THE OOZE (PG) Live-action turtles fighting evil in New York, brought with less violent fancy than before. Asymptotic for youngsters. Director, Michael Newland. Cannon. Chelsea (01-322 5599).

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## CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of the film in *Look and Learn* indicated with the symbol (L) on release across the country.

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## EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

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## BBC 1

- 6.00 **Crest**  
 6.30 **BBC Breakfast News**  
 9.05 **Around the World with Willy Fog**. Willy and his friends arrive in San Francisco in their balloon. (9.35) **Why Don't You...?** Entertaining ideas for children at a loose end. (10.05) **News**, regional news and weather. 10.05 **Playdays** (10.25) **Muppet News**. Cartoon (10.30) **News**, regional news and weather. 11.05 **Our House**. American family drama series. 11.35 **The History Man**. Bryan McNamery visits the crypt of Northumbria's Hild. 12.05 **The Garden Party**. A fresco magazine series with today, an international flavour - with Malaysian music, a Sikh wedding and a discussion about the difficulties faced by couples who come to Britain from abroad. There is also an interview with the Irish writer Edna O'Brien. Wales: The Royal Welsh 1991 12.55 **Regional News** and weather. 1.00 **One O'Clock News** and weather. 1.30 **Neighbours**. (Crest) 1.50 **Cricket: NatWest Bank Trophy Semi-Finals**. Live coverage from one of today's National Cricket Trophy semi-final matches. The other semi-final is covered on BBC2. 4.10 **Report**. Adventures of the gaily-garbed bar, narrated by Ray Brooks (1.45) **Yogi's Treasure Hunt**. Cartoon (1.50)



Precocious talent: Jean-Louis Gaudon with Carl Davis (4.35pm)

- 4.05 **The Mozart Special: Mozart from Scratch**. CHOICE: These three films - today's is the first - are the happy consequence of someone at the BBC realising that, in planning the flood of programmes that commemorate the bicentenary of Mozart's death, nobody had given a thought to the Mozart-fans of tomorrow - the children. The keynotes of Mozart from Scratch is precocity. We are, naturally enough, terribly impressed when the four-and-a-half year old pianist Jean-Louis Gaudon plays an Andante in C, but our astonishment is tempered by the knowledge (imparted by the composer-conductor Carl Davis, an inveterate patzer of young heads) that Mozart was only five when he wrote it. In fact, all the children we see performing this afternoon are of an age equivalent to Mozart's when he wrote the works they play. Rory O'Connor, 12, sings an aria from *Apollo et Hyacinthus* well enough, but where on earth did Mozart, 12, acquire the knowledge of jealousy, passion and murder that enabled him to pen it? (Crest) 5.00 **Newsround** 5.10 **The Bertons**. Episode eight of the 11-part children's drama series. (Crest) 5.30 **News**. 5.55 **Regional News**. 6.00 **Six O'Clock News** with Andrew Harvey and Jill Dando. Weather. 6.30 **Regional News**. 6.55 **Wogan**. Legendary rock star David Bowie and his new band Tin Machine provide the musical entertainment. Terry O'Quinn, who plays Billy Field about his role in the new film *Sophties*, a spoof on American soap, to Kevin Cline. 7.30 **Come Dancing '91**. Angela Ripston takes her toes and Charles Nove commiserates while ballroom dancers from Liverpool and Birmingham compete in the popular competition. From the Tower Ballroom, Blackpool. (Crest) 8.00 **News**. All the news. 8.30 **Nettle**. The Jersey detective John Nettles spends a day at the races on the look-out for counterfeit money - and gets caught up in the seamy world of the cabaret circuit. (Crest) 8.50 **Points of View** presented by Clive Anderson. 9.00 **Nine O'Clock News** with Michael Buerk. (Crest) Regional news and weather. 9.30 **Love and Hate**. Concluding the two-part Canadian mini-series based on the true and tragic story of a broken marriage, Colin (Kenneth Welsh) decides to take revenge on JoAnn (Kate Nelligan). (Crest) 11.00 **Cricket: NatWest Bank Trophy Semi-Finals**. Tony Lewis and Richie Benaud introduce highlights from both of today's semi-final matches in the NatWest Bank Trophy one-day series. 11.55 **Weather**. Wales: News headlines and weather.

## BBC 2

- 6.45 **Open University: Social Science Foundation Course - A Europe of the Regions?** Ends at 7.35  
 8.00 **News**  
 8.15 **BC: The Archaeology of the Bible Lands - The House of David**. Magnus Magnusson probes the evidence about the unification of Judah and Israel under King David (1). 8.45 **Writers' Houses: Lord Byron Lived Here**. Peter Porter visits Westwood in Nottinghamshire and describes the life and achievements of the great 18th century romantic poet (1). 9.00 **Castaway**. Paul Cook's word game (1). 9.30 **The Circus Moves On - In California**. Documentary about the ups and downs of life on the road for the Italian Circus Emblema. Made up of seven families, the circus never stays longer than three days in any one place (1). 10.20 **Cricket: NatWest Bank Trophy Semi-Finals**. Tony Lewis and Richie Benaud present live coverage from both of today's 50-over-50 matches, one-day series matches. 12.55 **Country File**. John Craven presents up-to-date coverage of rural issues (1.20) **Mr Bean**. (1) 1.35 **Cricket: NatWest Bank Trophy Semi-Finals**. Tony Lewis and Richie Benaud introduce live coverage of today's semi-final matches. The commentators are Jack Bannister, Ray Blinworth, Tom Graveney and Geoffrey Boycott. Includes news and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50. 7.25 **DEF: Rough Guide to Careers - Beauty**. CHOICE: Nobody with commercial instincts will expect Raj Chandra's and Denise Lux's survey of the jobs open to youngsters interested in the beauty industry, to take account of the philosophical argument about beauty being skin deep. This, then, is an exclusively cash-register enquiry into the whole business of vanity, and heavily statistical with its one million jobs in the industry, 50,000 new openings every year in Britain alone, 200,000 jobs in hairdressing alone, where students are up to 30 heads a day, countless thousands of models in the UK, but fewer than 1,000 making a decent (i.e. financially worthwhile) living. There are other delectables listed tonight, not least the disclosure that you will have to train for ten years if you want to be a beauty therapist, and that "glamorous modelling" usually means taking your top off. 8.00 **Reaching for the Stars: Revels Over the Atlantic**. Anthony Quayle narrates the history of how Boeing emerged as the clear winner in the commercial competition for control of the passenger air routes between Europe and the United States, and how the 747 Jumbo Jet became King (1). (Crest)

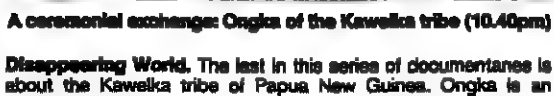


Theory of a divine intellect: Simon Donald, Eleanor Bron (8.00pm)

- 8.00 **Screenplay: The House of the Lynx**. CHOICE: Looking for light in what it calls the black holes in the universe of the psyche, *Play On* Enquist's film offers the theory that, in the disordered mind of a double murderer (Simon Donald), God could be a marmalade cat. This line of thought elicited some choruses from the press preview audience, and it is, indeed, the closest the play gets to light relief, though the truth is that the theory about the divine intellect is very seriously considered by the pastor (Eleanor Bron), whose metaphysical aid is sought by the psychiatric researcher (Sylvia La Touze), whose controlled experiment with the killer has gone horribly wrong. Like his fellow Swede Ingmar Bergman, Enquist appears to know the tortured areas of the soul as well as he knows the layout of his own house. The rest of us may have difficulty even finding the play's front door, though searching for it offers much food for thought. (Crest) 10.10 **Screenplay: The House of the Lynx**. Winner of the Best European Short Film category at the Cork Film Festival, this is the sensitive story of a young girl growing up in Swindon in the Fifties who has to come to terms with the death of her father, the gradual awakening of her sexuality and an uncertain future. Starring Katy Smith, Kim Thomson and Peter Woolfson. 10.30 **News**. 11.15 **Edinburgh Nights: A Portrait of Richard Demarco**. Sixty-one and far from retiring, the British art scene's wildest child is celebrating his 25th year at the Edinburgh Festival, and is exploring pastures new in Budapest. 11.55 **Weather**. 12.00 **Open University: Engineering Mechanics - Work and Energy**. Ends at 12.30.

## ITV

- 6.00 **TV-am**  
 6.25 **Vicky the Viking** 9.50 **Thames News** and weather  
 9.55 **The Handmaid School**. Episode seven of the eight-part drama starring Carol Drinkwater as an English governess living in the Australian outback (10.25) **Just For The Record**. Featuring the world's tallest policeman and the fastest horse demolisher (1). 10.50 **News** and weather. 10.55 **Adventures on Kythera II**. Episode three of the six-part children's adventure series set on a Greek island. 11.25 **On Take** 11.55 **Thames News** 12.00 **Disney Cartoon** featuring Pluto 12.10 **Albion** (1) 12.30 **News** with John Suchet. Weather 1.10 **Thames News** and weather. 1.20 **Home and Away**. (Oracle) 1.50 **A Country Practice**. 2.20 **Take the High Road**. Scottish soap set in the Highlands 2.50 **All Chased Up**. Game show for married couples. 3.15 **News** and weather. 3.20 **Thames News** and weather. 3.25 **The Young Doctors**. Australian medical drama. 3.55 **The Wombles** (1). (Oracle) 4.05 **Bangers & Mash**. Animation (1). 4.15 **I Can Do That!**. The children's contest for the chance of being a sea captain 4.40 **Roll's Caravan Club**. Roll's Harms visits London's Museum of the Moving Image (1). 5.10 **Blockbusters**. General knowledge quiz for teenagers. 5.40 **News** with Carol Barnes. (Oracle) Weather. 5.55 **Thames Help**. Jackie Sprackley joins a mother and her two children when they visit a dental surgery for a regular check-up. 6.00 **News** and weather. 6.10 **Thames News** and weather. 7.00 **Busman's Holiday**. Panto tunes, wigmakers and fizzy drink makers compete for the chance to see how their jobs are done in another country. (Oracle) 7.30 **Coronation Street**. (Oracle) 8.00 **Highway to Heaven**. Celestial adventure series starring the late Michael Landon as a teenage angel sent to Earth to gain his wings. 8.30 **James Randi: Psychic Investigator**. The bearded debunker tests claims that crystals contain healing powers. 8.30 **Singles**. Simon Cadell, Judy Lee, Suzie Blake and Eamon Boland star in the comedy series about four single friends. 10.00 **News** at Ten with Alastair Burnet and Trevor McDonald. (Oracle) Weather 10.30 **Thames News** and weather.



A ceremonial exchange: Oglala of the Keweenaw tribe (10.40pm)

- 10.40 **Disappearing World**. The last in this series of documentaries is about the Keweenaw tribe of Papua New Guinea. Oglala is an important member of his tribe and has used his talents to collect a number of gifts which he now has to sacrifice in a ceremonial exchange, or *mo* (10.40). 11.40 **LA Law Celebrates 100 Episodes**. A special programme, made earlier this year, when some of the world's most famous legal eagles opened their courts to guests to celebrate the 100th episode of the series. The series, which has received 12 Emmy Awards, is so popular that the day was declared *LA Law Day* by the mayor of Los Angeles. The hundredth episode can be seen tomorrow night at 9.00. 12.30 **News**. 12.35 **Cricket: NatWest Bank Trophy Semi-Finals**. A live coverage of a hockey-meet teenage girl who is determined to join the local boys' all-star team. When she becomes the goalie at the expense of one of the boys, his father tries to persuade the coach into dropping her from the team. Directed by Paul Shapiro. 2.00 **World Chess Championship**. Coverage of the quarter-finals from Brussels, where Britain's Nigel Short is trying for a place in the semi-finals. Presented by Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times* which also sponsors the transmissions of the highlights. 2.15 **Video-fashion**. The latest news from the world of high fashion. 2.40 **America's Top Ten** presented by Casey Kasam. 3.10 **Girls Night**. The pub and club quiz show, hosted by Martin Roberts. 3.40 **News**. 3.45 **Travis**. Coverage of the Pedigree Super League from Crookham, Hampshire. 4.40 **Fifty Years On** (b/w). Newsreel footage from August 1941 - Home Guards attack on streets, Germany expels American consuls and Chinese cities are bombed by the Japanese. 5.00 **News**. 5.05 **Country**. Country music from Nashville, Tennessee. 5.30 **ITV Morning News** with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00.

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 **The Channel Four Daily**  
 9.25 **Film: Dry Rot** (1956, b/w). Pure knockabout delight, starring Brian Rix, Ronald Shiner and Sid James as a trio of crooked bookies who try to swap an old nag for the favourite in a big horse race. Also starring Joan Sims and Peggy Mount, directed by Maurice Elvey. 11.00 **Fraggle Earth: Black Triangle**. An investigation into the extent of the damage done to the environment by the uranium and coal mines of the area known as the Black Triangle - where Poland, Czechoslovakia and Germany meet (1). 12.00 **In Search of Scotland's Larder**. Derek Hunter travels around Scotland in search of fabulous food. Today he learns the secrets of making good porridge and how to prepare berry bannocks. 12.30 **Business Daily**. A round-up of the news from the world's markets. 1.00 **Sesame Street**. Pre-school learning series. 2.00 **Changing Faces: The King's Painters**. Part three of the series on the history of portrait painting (1). 2.30 **Film: Fighting Men of the Plains** (1948, b/w). Energetic western starring Randolph Scott as an ex-criminal turned marshal who tries to clean up the town controlled by villain Barry Kelley. With Sid Williams and Victor Jory, directed by Edwin L. Marin. 4.15 **Ford**. Short German film about an old man whose only friend in the world is a cuddly toy. 4.30 **Countdown**. Words and numbers game hosted by Richard Whiteley. 5.00 **Laurel and Hardy**. Cartoon adventures. 5.05 **The Oprah Winfrey Show: Husbands Plead "Take Me Back"**. Oprah talks to estranged husbands who have been through a mid-life crisis and put their wives through hell - and now want their spouses to give them a second chance. 6.00 **Kate and Allie**. sitcom about the two delightful divorcees and their children who share a house together in New York's Greenwich Village (1).



Showbiz gossip: Ann Bryson and Maria McElrath (5.30pm)

- 6.30 **Sixtiesomething**. New showbiz series which promises star interviews, film and television previews and inside gossip from Hollywood, London and beyond. The first programme includes interviews with David Bowie in Dublin, where he is on tour with his new band the Tin Machine, and with Samantha Fox. Presented by Ann Bryson and Maria McElrath. 7.00 **Channel 4 News** with Nicholas Owen and Zainab Badawi. (Teletext) Weather. 7.30 **Comedy**. 8.00 **Brookside**. Suburban Merseyside soap. (Teletext) 8.30 **Cricket Out '91**. CHOICE: Strange are the ways of the Department of Education and Science. Either that or C4's consumer magazine hasn't tried hard enough to get official answers to its questions. The latter seems unlikely, given *Cricket* is an impressive track record. Why, then, does the department persistently refuse to fund an experiment which we are told has, in some cases, doubled the GCSE pass rate? Cognitive Acceleration through Science Education (CASE for short) has had a seven-year trial. Tonight's report focuses on two comprehensives, in Wigan and Lambeth, where the results have been startling. CASE, to put it simply, aims to develop a pupil's ability to reason by simultaneously combining practice and theory, defining things like variables and probabilities. Lay minds may not easily make the link between GCSE success and classroom lessons about sinking or floating jam-jars, holly berries and severe winters, and smoking grandpas who reach 80 without getting lung cancer. 9.00 **All the Bells of Tumbelton**. Tonight's programme in the gay and lesbian series follows the fortunes of an eastern German squatter which is occupied by 30 gay men. Also in the programme, Khush, a visual discovery of the lives of South Asian homosexuals in Britain, North America and India. (Teletext) 10.00 **The Golden Girls**. Comedy with the Miami matrons (1). (Teletext) 10.30 **Clive Anderson Talks Back**. Clive talks to *Newswriter* presenter Jeremy Paxman, Sunday Sport editor Drew Robertson and comedian Roy McGrath (1). 11.05 **Nightingales**. Sitcom about night security watchmen, starring Robert Lindsay, a big hit in G.B.H. (1). 11.35 **Frank's Place: Dueling Voodoo**. Off-beat comedy set in a New Orleans restaurant. 12.05 **Mission Eureka: A Dangerous Game**. European space-drama series. Ends at 1.00.

## TV VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**  
 As London except: 6.50pm-7.00 *Anglia News*. 8.00-8.10 *Anglia News*. 8.10-8.20 *Anglia News*. 8.20-8.30 *Anglia News*. 8.30-8.40 *Anglia News*. 8.40-8.50 *Anglia News*. 8.50-9.00 *Anglia News*. 9.00-9.10 *Anglia News*. 9.10-9.20 *Anglia News*. 9.20-9.30 *Anglia News*. 9.30-9.40 *Anglia News*. 9.40-9.50 *Anglia News*. 9.50-10.00 *Anglia News*. 10.00-10.10 *Anglia News*. 10.10-10.20 *Anglia News*. 10.20-10.30 *Anglia News*. 10.30-10.40 *Anglia News*. 10.40-10.50 *Anglia News*. 10.50-11.00 *Anglia News*. 11.00-11.10 *Anglia News*. 11.10-11.20 *Anglia News*. 11.20-11.30 *Anglia News*. 11.30-11.40 *Anglia News*. 11.40-11.50 *Anglia News*. 11.50-12.00 *Anglia News*. 12.00-12.10 *Anglia News*. 12.10-12.20 *Anglia News*. 12.20-12.30 *Anglia News*. 12.30-12.40 *Anglia News*. 12.40-12.50 *Anglia News*. 12.50-1.00 *Anglia News*. 1.00-1.10 *Anglia News*. 1.10-1.20 *Anglia News*. 1.20-1.30 *Anglia News*. 1.30-1.40 *Anglia News*. 1.40-1.50 *Anglia News*. 1.50-2.00 *Anglia News*. 2.00-2.10 *Anglia 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● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 19-24  
● BAR RESULTS 29  
● DEGREE RESULTS 29  
● SPORT 30-34

## Brokers ponder Burton cash call

UNDERWRITERS to Burton Group's £161 million one-for-one rights issue at 30p were last night unsure of how much they will need to take up of the retailers' cash call that closed at 3pm yesterday. A formal announcement of the level of acceptance is expected today after late post has been cleared. The City expects a 75 per cent subscription.

Burton shares yesterday closed at 39p, 1p up on the day. Last week, as the debate raged as to whether the rights issue was attractive or not, Burton shares and letters of allocation sank to 30p and 1/2p.

There has been an intense campaign to encourage Burton shareholders to take up their rights, though several shareholders said they would boycott the issue. Burton's rights issue proved controversial because the placing document detailed recently agreed salary packages for several Burton executives. It also outlined a dismal short-term profits picture. Burton added there had been a pay freeze until September, 1992, for the board, senior and middle management and hourly and other junior employees.

## De Beers slips

De Beers is paying an effectively unchanged interim dividend of 24.7 cents on a net attributable profit of \$446 million (£263 million), against \$517 million, and equity-accounted net profits of \$586 million (£704 million) for the six months to end-June.

Tempos, page 21

## Capel fined

James Capel, the broker, has been fined £20,000 by the Securities and Futures Authority for breaches of trade reporting rules. The breaches, during an 18-month period, were caused when Capel tried, but failed, to report several equity trades denominated in Japanese yen.

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.6940 (-0.0050)  
German mark 2.9323 (+0.0024)  
Exchange index 90.8 (same)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 2022.3 (+14.8)  
FT-SE 100 2584.9 (+15.5)  
New York Dow Jones 3028.40 (+27.06)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 22672.00 (-113.67)

## MAJOR CHANGES

RISERS:  
Bentley 188 1/2 (+8p)  
Bentley 188 1/2 (+8p)  
Liberty 227 1/2 (+23p)  
Courts Furniture 291 1/2 (+10p)  
Morgan Crucible 336 1/2 (+8p)  
Gerrard National 290 (+15p)  
Lloyds 372 1/2 (+14p)  
Grand Met 81 1/2 (+14p)  
Hammerson 'A' 61 1/2 (+13p)  
P. Eaton 457 1/2 (+15p)  
Usher Walker 200 (+15p)  
Bess 92 1/2 (+7p)  
Unilever 235 (+10p)  
BBA 143 1/2 (+8p)  
FALLS:  
Lionel Discount 282 1/2 (-12p)  
Expansive 151 1/2 (-11p)  
News Corp 229 (-9p)  
APF 229 (-10p)  
Savoy Hotels 'A' 677 1/2 (-7p)  
Closing Prices...Page 23

## INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 11%  
3-month Interbank 10 1/2-10 3/4%  
3-month eligible bills 10 1/2-10 3/4%  
US Prime Rate 6 1/2%  
Federal Funds 5 1/4%  
3-month Treasury Bills 5.29-5.28%  
30-year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

## CURRENCIES

London New York  
£/\$ 1.6940  
£/DM 2.9323  
£/Sfr 2.5849  
£/FF 165.50  
£/Yen 138.48  
£/Index 56.3  
ECU 50.899785 SD 20.790283  
£/ECU 1.28939 £/SD 1.254467

## GOLD

London Fixing:  
AM \$357.25 pm \$356.80  
close \$356.80 \$357.10 (\$210.50-211.00)  
New York  
Comex \$356.45-356.95

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Sep.) \$19.46 oil (\$19.88)  
Denotes latest trading price

## RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 134.1 June (1987=100)

## Bullish retail message confirmed

# Output figures suggest end of recession

By ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE sharp decline in Britain's economy appears to be over, according to official data.

Industrial production rose 3 per cent in June, largely as a result of a surge in North Sea oil activity, and manufacturing output performed better than expected, showing a 0.2 per cent gain in the month.

While government officials and private economists said it was too early to draw any conclusions about the timing or strength of an economic upturn, yesterday's statistics confirmed the bullish message of the strong retail sales figures published on Monday. Several private economists asserted that the bottom of the recession had finally been reached.

Treasury officials said they were more confident than ever about the Chancellor's forecast of a recovery in the second half of the year. One said: "The recession may be over already - if not, it will be over very soon."

Privately, government officials were betting that positive growth in industrial production and gross domestic product would begin this quarter, assuring that this recession would prove shallower and shorter than that of 1980-81.

A Treasury spokesman said if the level of manufacturing output stabilised at the level reached in the last quarter, the total decline in manufacturing during this recession would be 6% per cent; less than half as bad as the 15 per cent slump of ten years ago.

Even the Confederation of British Industry, which had been arguing only two weeks ago that the recession was still deepening with no recovery in sight, was cheered by the figures. Douglas McWilliams, the confederation's chief economist, said manufacturing production was close to bottoming out "in line with our interpretation of our own survey data."

However, Joyce Quin, the shadow trade and industry spokesman, said: "Manufacturing production has found that demand and output have declined with no signs of recovery. The government should admit its responsibility for the present recession."

The details of yesterday's figures suggested reasons for caution. While manufacturing output improved in June, this gain followed two months of decline. In fact, upward blips of 0.2 per cent have occurred in manufacturing statistics every three months since last December, only to be followed by renewed falls.

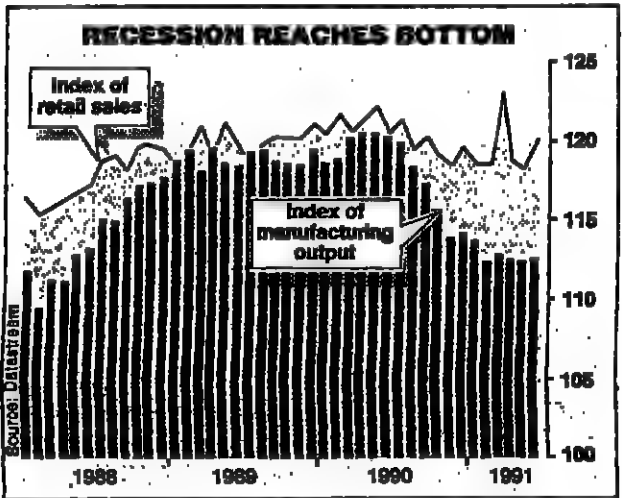
A better trend was clearly observable in the latest figures, but government officials conceded that this trend showed slowdown in the economy's rate of decline.

In the latest three months, manufacturing output fell 0.5 per cent against the three months before. This rate of decline was much smaller than the 1.3 per cent fall in the previous quarter and the 3.3 per cent drop in the last quarter of 1990, when the manufacturing recession was at its worst.

Another possible reason for caution is that the stronger than expected June figures may have reflected a temporary surge in business and consumer confidence after the spring reductions in interest rates and the end of the Gulf war. This improvement has since been reversed, according to more recent surveys.

The first indication of whether the apparent improvement in the economy has carried through to the summer will come on Thursday, with publication of employment figures for July.

The government also reported yesterday that the producer prices index rose 0.3 per cent in July, lifting the annual rate of wholesale inflation to 5.9 from 5.8 per cent. Excluding seasonal factors and the volatile food drink and tobacco components, the PPI increased by a disappointingly rapid 0.5 per cent. Year on year, the index was unchanged at 5.2 per cent.



## Retail data point to US recovery

AN unexpectedly high rise in retail sales in July provided further evidence of a tentative recovery in America's economy. The rise of 0.5 per cent over the month compared with an increase of 0.1 per cent in June and market forecasts of 0.3 per cent. The figures helped the dollar to strengthen modestly.

Since the rise in money sales, much of it is accounted for by inflation and the underlying increase remains slim. Some encouragement is, however, being drawn from a steady recovery in car sales,

which have grown in three successive months for the first time in two years. The July increase in car sales reached 1 per cent after a 0.9 per cent rise in June. Excluding cars, retail sales rose 0.3 per cent.

Rising exports helped America's trade deficit with Japan shrink for the third month running, to \$3 billion in July. However, Japan's overall monthly trade surplus again widened to \$6.68 billion and there were increased surpluses in trade with the European Community and the rest of Asia.

## Tokyo bails out 'fraud' bank

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

JAPAN'S financial establishment has rushed to the aid of Toyo Shinkin Bank, a relatively small Osaka credit union, after it admitted being involved in an alleged fraud involving £1.5 billion in false deposit certificates.

The alleged fraud is only the latest in a series involving leading Japanese banks that include the issue of false deposit certificates to their customers in order to help them obtain loans from other

sources. A former official of the credit union and an Osaka restaurant owner who was one of its leading clients were arrested yesterday.

The scandals are contributing to the troubles of Japan's banks, which have been made worse by the fall in share and property prices and new international capital standards set by the Bank for International Settlements.

In its quarterly report, the BIS reveals that Japanese

banks and their overseas affiliates, which had grown to dominate the international interbank market, cut their cross-border interbank lending by around \$150 billion in the first quarter of this year. This led to an unprecedented fall of \$85 billion in the market and a record \$54 billion drop in the gross claims of international banks.

Japanese close ranks, page 21  
Interbank market hit, page 21

## Pentland nets 20% of Adidas

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
EUROPEAN BUSINESS  
CORRESPONDENT

BERNARD Tapie, the French financier, socialist politician and football club owner, must have suffered another blow to his pride yesterday.

Earlier this year, M Tapie saw Olympique Marseille, his football club, lose the European Cup and now he has sold just over 20 per cent in Bernard Tapie Finance GmbH, the German holding company of Adidas, for DM134.5 million to Pentland.

The British company best known for its now reduced stake in Reebok, one of Adidas's main rivals.

The deal is more significant than the percentage of the stake suggest. Pentland does not hide its ambitions to take over majority control, "if the



Tapie: another blow circumstances arise". He reduced his 95 per cent in the BTFF to repay debts to his French bankers, who financed most of the Adidas takeover. A first tranche of that loan was due this month, but following yesterday's deal M Tapie decided to repay FF1.27 billion, leaving BTFF

with only marginal debt. Pentland, which has sold its 31.6 per cent stake in Reebok in a deal worth \$616 million, will initially own 20.05 per cent of BTFF, but that might rise to more than 25 per cent within five years. M Tapie will remain a majority shareholder, with 55 per cent of BTFF, owned by Bernard Tapie Finance SA of France.

The remainder of BTFF that is for sale will go to French institutional shareholders and the company's management.

M Tapie paid an estimated FF2 billion for the highly leveraged takeover of Adidas, partially secured on Adidas's own credit line. The deal, initially for an 80 per cent stake, was raised to 95 per cent later.

Frank Farrant, Pentland's finance director, said yesterday: "Adidas has superb

brand names, some of the best sport stars under contract, and we perceive them to be in a turnaround situation." In 1989, Adidas lost DM130 million, but last year, it returned a net profit of DM30 million, which Pentland hopes will continue to rise, particularly if Adidas can repeat the performance of Reebok and Nike, which have margins of about 10 per cent. Mr Farrant said that only 20.05 per cent of Adidas had been on offer, but Pentland secured an option on a further 5 per cent, to be exercised between 1993 and 1996, at a cost of between DM48 million and DM96 million.

René Jaggi, the president of Adidas, said he looked forward to working with Stephen Rubin, the chairman of Pentland. He acknowledged Mr Rubin's "intimate knowledge of our industry".

## Retailer reshapes with menswear sale



In hand: Geoffrey Maitland Smith hopes to mould a secure future for Sears

## Sears set to sell Horne Brothers

By MATTHEW BOND

SEARS, the retail conglomerate, is to sell its loss-making Horne Brothers chain and is expected to close over 100 of its other menswear shops.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman, said the disposal of Horne and the cutbacks at Fosters and Your Price could cost Sears £24 million in the current financial year.

"The menswear sector of retailing is currently experiencing very difficult trading conditions which are unlikely to improve in the short term. We are therefore taking the opportunity to restructure our menswear division," he said.

Horne Brothers, which Sears acquired in 1987 for £34 million, is to be sold to its management for a nominal sum. However, Sears has retained the ownership of a number of the more valuable frehold and long leasehold shops. Horne Brothers will pay Sears rent on these.

The buyout vehicle will be chaired by Murray Gordon, the former chairman of Combined English Stores, and will have David Niven as chief executive. Yesterday, Mr Niven was confident that the Horne's losses could be stemmed. "Whilst times are difficult there are signs that trading in the menswear retail sector is starting to turn, indicating this to be a suitable time to acquire the business," he said. Sears retains an option to acquire up to 20 per cent of the buyout vehicle.

The disposal of Horne's 45 branches leaves Sears with a menswear estate of around 425 units, of which over 300 trade as Foster and over 100 as Your Price. John Lovering, Sears' finance director, said a number of branches would be closed but that it was too early to comment on suggestions that as many as 120 stores would be shut with the loss of over 300 jobs.

However, Sears did confirm that the closure and subsequent redundancies could cost up to £10 million, in addition to the £19 million that would be lost through the disposal of Horne. Sears shares dropped 1 1/2p to 79 1/2p, on concern that the losses further threatened dividends.

Comment, page 21

## GA loss mounts to £101m

By NEIL BENNETT

GENERAL Accident, the Scottish insurer, plunged to a £101 million loss (£66 million loss) in the first half of the year due to heavy claims in Britain from arson and theft and credit guarantee policies.

Nelson Robertson, the chief general manager, described the results as highly unsatisfactory.

However, he added: "Despite the difficulties being experienced worldwide, the restoration of an acceptable level of profitability remains our major and urgent objective. The vigorous corrective action we have taken is beginning to prove effective."

Mr Robertson said the lack of signs of recovery in Britain's economy had forced GA to keep its interim dividend at 9.7p.

The group suffered an overall underwriting loss of £303 million, up from a £217 million shortfall in the first half last year. In Britain, where operations accounted for £178 million of the loss, GA suffered a sharp increase in recession-related fraud, including arson, while theft claims rose 50 per cent in the last year.

Mr Robertson said the group had increased motor and household premiums by more than a fifth in the past year, but warned customers that the rate rises will continue until the group recovers. "We will increase rates on a selective basis so we are hitting those that are causing the claims," he said.

GA is also undergoing a cost-cutting programme and plans to reduce branch staff by 1,400, or a fifth, by next year.

Tempos, page 21

## CURRENCY LOANS FROM RFCL

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## Classic signs of early recovery

COMMENT

One month's figures may not make a trend, but the swallows of economic summer are starting to fly thick and fast. On its own, the 0.2 per cent increase in manufacturing production reported for June would be nothing to get excited about. But combining this with the very strong retail sales figures reported on Monday and the clear signs of stabilisation reported in the CBI surveys, which the confederation's own spokesmen appear to have misinterpreted, a clear picture does emerge. Whether that picture is as rosy as the Chancellor and the City believe is another matter.

There are three main elements in the picture. By the late spring the economy had clearly bottomed out and was even beginning to recover. The recovery was strongest in some of the most cyclical businesses, including retail sales of household goods and, according to yesterday's output figures, in even more surprising sectors like metals manufacturing and building materials. Manufacturers were also benefiting, according to the trade figures released three

weeks ago, from a surge in exports, especially of cars. In all these respects this seems to be a classic pattern for the early stages of an economic recovery. Why then the uncertainty which even the Treasury feels about calling the turn?

One reason may be that an ominous shadow hangs over each of the positive forces behind the spring recovery. Taking the last point first, the export surge in June was probably an aberration and if the motor manufacturers in particular are to be trusted, exports to Europe in the second half of the year will be very much weaker than in the first. This conclusion is also suggested by the weakening economic trends in Germany and France — and a rise in German interest rates is not going to help.

As for the unexpected strength of the cyclical manufacturing industries, it is simply impossible to extrapolate any trends from yesterday's figures. Metals man-

ufacturing jumped by 2.7 per cent between May and June, while output of "other minerals and products" increased by 0.9 per cent. These two sectors actually accounted for the whole of the gain in manufacturing in the month. But these gains may not be reliable.

Finally, there are some accidents of timing. The June surge in household goods sales must have owed something to the pick-up in the housing market observed by the building societies in March and April. The same is probably true of the unexpected increase in building materials output reported in yesterday's manufacturing figures. But the improvement in the housing market has since been reversed. Another factor confusing the timing of recovery was the increase in excise duties and

VAT. This clearly reduced sales in April and possibly in May, exaggerating the June advance.

The main question now is whether the improvement in confidence and activity which clearly occurred in the spring has been sustained through the summer. The July figures to be published in the next week or so will offer the first crucial hints.

### Sale time

Now is not the time to be in menswear. Top or bottom of the market appears to make no difference. There is just no escaping the fact that in the depths of recession the decision to buy new clothes is one that the average mortgage-paying, debt laden and possibly redundant male can postpone indefinitely.

Sears yesterday bit half the bullet by confirming that it planned to sell Home Brothers to its management and to close around one-quarter of its remaining 425 menswear outlets. David Carter-Johnson, who was appointed managing director of the menswear businesses in March, could have been forgiven for recommending a complete withdrawal given the bleak picture that his review of operations must have unearthed. But to forsake an entire sex would presumably have been a step too far for a retailer with the high street presence of Sears.

David Niven, chief executive of the newly bought out Home Brothers, is confident that the sharply dressed customer of the Eighties will eventually return, presumably after he has finally paid off the credit card bill run up in the last retail boom. Given enough time, his confidence looks well placed.

But whether Sears, now firmly

anchored to the bottom of the market through its Fosters and Your Price chains, can look to the future with such confidence is uncertain. For if the economy recovers, even a modest move up-market by consumers once again enjoying a feeling of affluence could leave Sears a little short of customers. Certainly, the upside of Foster and Your Price is not as apparent as it is at Hornes.

The sale of Hornes finally stems losses of around £10 million a year, while the £10 million Sears is spending on rationalising its remaining outlets will be recouped within two years, by which time Sears management hopes menswear will have returned to profit. But there is no saving this year when, even without Hornes, the other businesses are expected to clock up losses of over £5 million, contributing to an anticipated 25 per cent decline in pre-tax and pre-exceptional profits. Having warned in May of tough times ahead, Mr Maitland Smith now needs to be more convincing about the prospects for longer term recovery.

## Japanese close ranks to avoid banking failures

In the light of yet another bank scandal, Joanna Pitman looks at Japan's discreet code of financial support

THE cosy relationship between the Bank of Japan, the Japanese finance ministry and their banking and broking constituents has been highlighted again by the discovery that the two financial authorities were prepared to pull out all the stops to arrange financial support for Toyo Shinkin Bank, a small, Osaka-based credit association that has become involved in an alleged financial fraud.

Prosecutors yesterday arrested Tomomichi Makiwara, a former Osaka branch manager of Toyo Shinkin Bank, and his alleged accomplice, a restaurant owner, on suspicion of forging official documents and issuing false deposit receipts to use as collateral for obtaining loans worth ¥342 billion (£1.5 billion) from nonbank lending institutions such as leasing companies.

This is the latest example of sharp practices that appear to have been studiously ignored by the financial authorities in the bull markets of the late Eighties, and are only being exposed now the bear is beginning to maul Japan's markets of the Nineties. The Toyo Shinkin scheme is believed to have been hatched in order to provide clients with loans from finance companies when the bank itself was unable to lend sufficient money.

Toyo Shinkin ranks 56th among Japan's 446 credit unions and had only ¥360 billion in total deposits as of March 31 this year. In order to cushion the bank from the damage and avoid what would otherwise be inevitable bankruptcy, the Bank of Japan's Osaka branch is preparing to funnel tens of billions of yen to Toyo Shinkin despite its alleged involvement in a massive fraud. Akira Nambara, chief representative of the central bank's Osaka branch said yesterday that the Bank of



Okami-san: Nui Onoue arrives at the prosecutor's office

Japan would take appropriate measures to prevent Toyo Shinkin Bank from "suffering financial shortages".

Both the finance ministry and the central bank said they had appealed urgently to other banks including the Industrial Bank of Japan (IBJ), the Zen-shiroen Bank (the central cooperative bank for credit associations) and Sanwa Bank to provide funds for the ailing Toyo Shinkin Bank. Such "appeals" from Japan's financial

authorities should more accurately be interpreted as orders. All three institutions jumped in response and have arranged supporting credit lines for Toyo Shinkin.

Japan's financial authorities pride themselves on the fact that they have seen no bank failures since 1942. "In America these days, 200 banks collapse every year. In Japan we have been regulating and we have been efficient in our own way," Tadao Chino, the newly appointed vice minister

for international affairs and Japan's top financial policy maker, said recently.

These regulatory methods, which are known as "administrative guidance" and which are typically informal, unwritten and notoriously ambiguous, have come under scrutiny since the stock trading loss compensation scandal which has rocked Japan's financial markets since mid-July and which, at the latest count, has involved

improper payments, worth ¥172 billion, by brokers to favoured clients.

While Mr Chino believes that the Japanese authorities' guidance has been successful, he does admit that more transparency should be introduced. "There are some shady happenings now and we need to do something about that," he said.

Despite Bank of Japan claims that there is no such thing as intensive care treatment for ailing financial institutions, the Toyo Shinkin

case is typical of the authorities' approach to a rescue. The three banks asked to intervene with a credit line will probably notch up brownie points with the authorities and claim their reward in the future in some form of special treatment.

According to Tokyo newspapers, Toyo Shinkin's Mr Makiwara, who was arrested yesterday, perpetrated the alleged fraud with Nui Onoue, the restaurant proprietor, who is the top ranking investor on IBJ's high net worth individual client list. She runs Egawa, a smart establishment in Osaka frequented by the city's financial elite.

One newspaper reported yesterday that the 61-year-old "okami-san" (a high-class, kimono-clad restaurant hostess) has ¥292 billion worth of bank deposits and ¥107 billion worth of equity investments and makes her investments in ¥100 million denominations, according to the research of a leading city bank. Ms Onoue's alleged involvement in the loan scam became necessary, according to Japanese financial analysts, when the value of her portfolio collapsed with the dwindling levels of the Tokyo stock market.

Last month, three Japanese city banks, including Fuji Bank, admitted that they had been involved in similar fraudulent loan deals. Fuji Bank's fraud scheme which involved three former bank officials, ran to ¥260 billion. Kenichi Suematsu, chairman of Japan's federation of bankers associations, responding to yesterday's newest and largest bank fraud of this sort, said that his organisation would carry out a thorough investigation into the banks' fraudulent loan schemes.

The scandals have put pressure on the finance ministry to tighten its regulations and put an end to its close personal ties with the institutions under its jurisdiction.

But judged on the basis of yesterday's concerted bank rescue, the interdependency between Japan's financial authorities and their constituents, which was perhaps seen most graphically in 1987 when the finance ministry's co-ordinated control of its brokerages allowed the Tokyo Stock Exchange to weather Black Monday with barely a scratch, is clearly still in place. In Japan, the finance ministry and the Bank of Japan remain the leaders of last resort.

## New BIS ratios hit interbank market

THE balance of power within the international banking system is in the throes of another big change as fears grow over creditworthiness, and the new international capital/asset ratios, set by the Bank for International Settlements, bite in Japan. During the first quarter of this year, the international interbank market shrank by an unprecedented \$80 billion.

The BIS calculates, in its quarterly survey, that this led to a \$54 billion drop in the gross international claims of BIS reporting banks in the first three months of 1991, the biggest ever recorded. Net of re-deposits, international lending rose \$55 billion, down from an average \$108 billion in the four previous quarters and there was a drop in lending to developing countries.

The Gulf conflict produced uncertainty early in this period but the survey points to other causes for the contraction. Japanese banks were pulling in their horns to comply with the new rules, made harder by the fall in asset values in Japan. There were also heightened doubts in the market over the safety of money placed with some banks, notably in America, long before BCCI's closure.

The total international assets of banks in Japan fell \$36 billion, and their liabilities by \$50 billion, in the last quarter of their financial year, when lending usually rises. Their international interbank lending dropped by \$76 billion.

This undercuts the retreat of dominant Japanese banks, since the greater impact was on their offshoots abroad. Interbank lending by Japanese-owned banks fell by \$142 billion and even this does not include cuts by offshoots in Hong Kong and Singapore. External claims of all banks in Asian offshore centres fell by a net \$31 billion.

The troubles of American banks, which reduced confidence in them before recent mergers, also led to a \$21 billion drop in lending to American banks from countries other than Japan.

Europe, however, bucked the declining trend. Growth in cross-border interbank lending within Europe accelerated from \$23 billion in the fourth quarter of 1990 to \$31 billion in the first quarter, with growth concentrated in European currencies.

GRAHAM SEARJEANT  
Financial Editor

## General Accident losses offer a glimmer of hope

THE City usually reacts to news of a £101 million loss with undisguised revulsion, so the enthusiasm with which General Accident's interim figures were received appeared distinctly odd.

For two years the stock market has been searching for signs that the cyclical decline in the insurance market has ended. GA provided them.

The headline figures, however, looked grim. Losses rose from £66.6 million last time while the underwriting deficit was £202 million, compared with £217 million. A lack of confidence about the future forced the board to hold the dividend unchanged at 9.7p.

There are signs that the group is turning the corner. In Britain, GA has pushed through an impressive list of premium increases. Personal motor rates have increased 23 per cent in the past year, and household contents are up 22 per cent. A further 9 per cent rise in motor and some household structure premiums are due in September.

Despite the rises, GA's premium income in Britain rose only 6.5 per cent in the half year, showing the group is fulfilling its promise to sacrifice market share to cut losses.

In the meantime, recession-related claims are rising sharply. Mortgage and creditor guarantee policies incurred a £40 million underwriting loss alone, while theft claims have risen by half. GA is reducing its creditor guarantee business, but on the whole can only wait for the recession to end.

Costs are also under scrutiny, and GA expects to cut staff by a fifth by next year.

All these changes have come too late to improve this year's outcome. Losses should rise to a record £150 million. But GA is financially strong and can withstand the shortfall and even offer a modest increase in the dividend to 27.5p. This puts the shares on a 6.6 per cent yield. Reasonable, assuming the action taken will



Mine host: De Beers' Julian Ogilvie Thompson

allow the group to scrape back into profit in 1992.

### De Beers

DE BEERS might think it *infra dig* to be classed as "another mining company", but within the sector De Beers has performed better than most in the six months to end-June, with attributable net profits down only 13.7 per cent.

The profit at \$446 million (\$517 million) and equity accounted profit at \$586 million (\$704 million) were clearly signalled by lower CSO diamond sales, announced in July, and by the lower dividends declared by many companies in which De Beers is invested.

De Beers' interim dividend is effectively held at 24.7 cents (24.8 cents), covered 1.35 times by investment income of \$127 million (\$138 million).

The growing London fashion of an interim balance sheet, and some half-time

colour from chairman Julian Ogilvie Thompson, would be welcomed by followers of De Beers, who are merely told that cash balances are lower.

The margin on the diamond account, though, was maintained at 19.8 per cent, and is likely to edge higher in the second half. Delayed receipts of \$100 million from earlier rough diamond sales have now been received. Meanwhile, interest on the \$1 billion loan to Russia continues to be received regularly.

The outlook for diamonds in general, and for De Beers in particular, is still governed by the health of world economies — still patchy in various De Beers' markets — and a 1991 profits dip is not unexpected.

The shares have risen from \$16 last December to yesterday's \$28, but the investment message, even on a prospective rating of between 11.4 and 13 times, backed by a 4 per cent yield, is hold. There are few flaws here.

### 'Snowman' joins Hunt

CONTRARY to speculation that he was set to join either Panmure Gordon or Williams de Broe, Geoff Bowman "the Snowman" is now happily ensconced at Peel Hunt, the investment boutique formed two years ago by old Etonians Charlie Peel and Christopher Holdsworth-Hunt. Joining him soon is Peter Jones, former head of research at Messel & Co, where Bowman spent 20 years. Bowman says: "He is coming to build up our research face." Bowman spent five years at Lehman Brothers, after it bought Messel in April 1985 and was a director of Schroder Securities until April. He is now using his web of City contacts to win new business for the firm. Jones, until recently stores and food retailing analyst at Schroder, joins in September.

### Food substitute

CITY gents keen to escape the endless round of starchily lunches are, it seems, heading

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

for the Midlands. Cashing in on the go-karting craze that is sweeping the Square Mile, Northampton International Raceway has launched a package that promises stock car racing as well as karting for bored — or merely over-lunched — company employees. Bankers, solicitors and even accountants have been signing up.

### Life of leisure

AFTER 15 years at the same firm, anyone would deserve a break. Tony Kay, former specialist salesman on the insurance desk at James Capel, who left the firm two weeks ago in a blaze of publicity, is no exception. In keeping with his youthful image, Kay, who built Capel's insurance team from scratch, promptly left on an energetic tour of Germany and Italy. He

is back in Britain briefly and chatting to contacts in the Square Mile, but leaves for the Edinburgh Festival next week to continue his spell of leisure. Allan Nichols and Alan Richards, Capel's insurance analysts, and Keith Hutchings, dealer, are still looking for a replacement.

CITY wags are still chuckling over a reference on the Oracle news service this week to "Anglican" water. Sounds like divine retribution.

### Maxwell mix-up

EVEN Robert Maxwell, as canny a corporate juggler as one is likely to find, seems to be having difficulty keeping track of his business empire. Panic swept the communications department of Maxwell House yesterday after a press release was sent out

under the wrong letterhead. Staff rushed out to a replacement, pointing out that the earlier version had been issued under the Mirror Group Newspapers label instead of in the name of Robert Maxwell Group. To add to the confusion, few City scribbles have even heard of Robert Maxwell Group.

### Maddening error

LAUGHTER rippled through the Solihull headquarters of National Home Loans, the central lender, after a report in *The Birmingham Post* yesterday that Richard Lacy, the former chief executive, was trying to buy back parts of the business. NHL's share price has slumped from 118p on July 1 to 25p on the withdrawal of deposits by local authorities after the collapse of the Bank of Credit and

Commerce International. This is far from funny, but the newspaper had mistakenly printed a photograph of Professor Richard Lacey, a government adviser on BSE, known as mad cow disease.

### Lively Lee

ANYONE who assumes that librarians, like accountants and actuaries, naturally lead dull and boring lives should think again. Sharon Lee, lively and popular librarian in the research department of Smith New Court, disproves the myth. Lee, who is appreciated on the dealing floor for her dry sense of humour, was dining at the Chinese Embassy last week when police officers burst in and demanded to speak to her. She had, it seems, parked her battered ten-year-old Fiat outside, and the police, suspecting a bomb, had moved in. Luckily, embassy officials intervened and Lee was left to continue her meal in peace.

JON ASHWORTH

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14th August 1991



## SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

## Solid expansion for Siemens

Siemens' business volume expanded strongly during the period under review, due mainly to numerous large orders and the inclusion of newly acquired companies. New orders rose 20 percent, with the major proportion of the growth being accounted for by German domestic business. During the last three months, international orders also picked up. Newly consolidated companies accounted for 8 percent of the growth in orders. Worldwide sales increased 12 percent and net income after taxes 7 percent.

## New orders

Siemens (Siemens AG and its consolidated companies) booked new orders of DM61.3 (previous year: DM51.0) billion during the period under review (1 October 1990 to 30 June 1991), an increase of 20 percent. Of this total, 8 percentage points were due to newly consolidated companies, mainly Siemens Nixdorf Informationssysteme AG (SNI) and the activities acquired from Plessey. Growth in Germany was strong (31 percent), due both to newly acquired businesses and, above all, to orders from the new German states (DM2.4 billion). Despite having a lower growth rate than in prior years, international business still expanded by 13 percent on a year-to-year comparison. Large-scale orders

stimulated above-average growth for the Transportation (39 percent), Public Communication Networks (33 percent) and Power Engineering (27 percent) Groups. By contrast, business in standard products was weaker. Despite a depressed climate in the computer sector, SNI recorded orders of DM9.0 billion, 4 percent more than a year earlier.

DM billion	1/10/89 to 30/6/90	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	Change
New orders	51.0	61.3	+ 20%
German business	20.8	27.2	+ 31%
International business	30.2	34.1	+ 13%

## Sales

Sales rose 12 percent from DM45.3 to DM51.0 billion, with German and international operations contributing equal shares of this growth. Due to the traditionally long lead times in the systems business, the high level of new orders booked this year will not be immediately reflected in the sales volume. Developments varied very strongly among the operating groups. While sales of Semiconductors and Automation Systems stagnated and Automotive Systems, Drives and Standard Products recorded only marginal growth rates, sales of the Transportation Systems, Industrial and Building Systems, and Public Communication Networks Groups increased by over 20 percent each. At SNI, nine-month sales trailed behind new orders, despite satisfactory third quarter figures.

tation Systems, Industrial and Building Systems, and Public Communication Networks Groups increased by over 20 percent each. At SNI, nine-month sales trailed behind new orders, despite satisfactory third quarter figures.

DM billion	1/10/89 to 30/6/90	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	Change
Sales	45.3	51.0	+ 12%
German business	20.2	22.8	+ 13%
International business	25.1	28.2	+ 12%

## Employees

The number of employees at 30 June 1991 was just under 407,000, or 9 percent more than at 30 September 1990. This growth resulted primarily from the inclusion of newly acquired companies. Other factors had only a marginal effect on employment levels. Reductions in the workforce and some short-time work was necessary in a few areas which were affected by recessionary trends. Personnel costs rose 15 percent to DM22.9 billion.

In thousands	30/9/90	30/6/91	Change
Employees	373	407	+ 9%
German operations	230	246	+ 7%
International operations	143	161	+ 13%

## Capital spending and net income

Capital spending was down by one-third on the comparable year-to-year period, decreasing from DM5.3 billion to DM3.6 billion. This reduction was due exclusively to the lower amount spent on acquisitions. Capital expenditures on fixed assets rose slightly. Net income after taxes increased 7 percent, from DM1,136 million to DM1,214 million.

DM billion	1/10/89 to 30/6/90	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	Change
Capital expenditure and investments	5.3	3.6	- 33%
Net income after taxes	1,136	1,214	+ 7%

Siemens AG, Berlin and Munich

## STOCK MARKET

## Shares heartened by recovery hopes

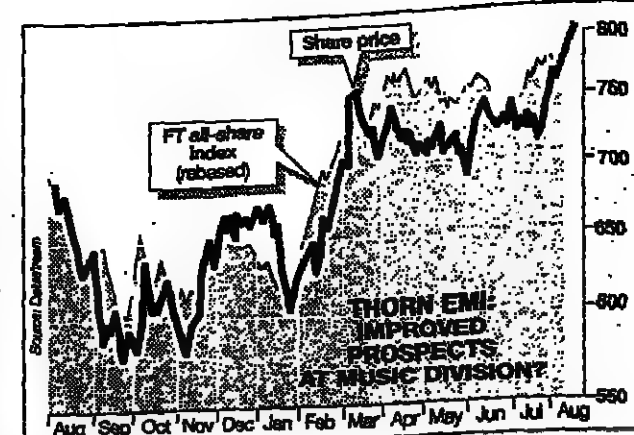
FURTHER evidence that the economy may be back on the recovery path cheered the City and enabled share prices to score some useful gains. An apparent improvement in industrial output provided the basis for another burst of selective buying.

An early, 22-point rise on Wall Street enabled the FT-SE 100 index to close at its best of the day with a rise of 15.5 to 2,584.9. But trading remained thin and was concentrated largely among the leaders. The total number of shares traded rose to 474 million but dealers said demand was patchy. The FT index of 30 shares advanced 14.8 to 2,022.3. Government securities sported gains of 1/4 at the longer end with investors keeping an eye on Germany before tomorrow's Bundesbank meeting and a possible rise in German interest rates.

Asda, the supermarkets chain, slipped 1/4 to 87p as 10 million shares changed hands. A put-through of 4 million shares was reported just 24 hours after the shares went ex-dividend. Glaxo jumped 40p to 113.06 after receiving permission to market Imigran, its anti-migraine drug, in this country in an injectable form. Share shortages lifted Bepex, 7p to 400p, Fisons, 7p to 479p, and SmithKline Beecham, 6p to 784p.

Reuters rallied 9p to 837p, helped by reports that Goldman Sachs, the New York securities house, had increased its earnings forecast by 5 per cent. Hanson firmed 1/4p to 217 1/2p in heavy turnover before today's third-quarter figures.

General Accident suffered an early mark-down after reporting increased half-time losses. But indications that the insurance market had started to bottom out saw the price rally to close 4p dearer at



555p. Commercial Union finished 3p better at 535p, Guardian Royal Exchange 1p at 181p, and Royal Insurance 9p at 414p.

Thorn EMI, the music and leisure group, passed the £8 level with a rise of 12p to 802p, helped by a better than expected set of figures from the rival Polygram, part of Philips, the Dutch group. Now City analysts are hoping for a similar performance from

Albert Fisher, the fruit and vegetable distributor, fell 3p to a low of 106p. The shares have been under a cloud since the resignation of Keith Brackpool as chief executive of the American operations in April. Dealers say that the prolonged weakness will make it more difficult to sustain Fisher's impressive growth record.

Thorn EMI's music division which accounts for between 35 and 40 per cent of group profits. County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, believes recent cost-cutting measures at Thorn will result in higher profits at the music division - even if sales are currently down.

Meanwhile, County has

been taking a cautious look at the rest of the leisure sector and has decided to cut some of its profit forecasts. Its estimate for the current year for Rank Organisation, up 8p at 685p, has been cut by £16 million to £238 million and by £14 million to £280 million for next year. First Leisure, 2p lower at 267p, had its estimates reduced from £32.7 million to £30.5 million and by £3 million to £36 million for next year.

Airtours, the airline tour operator, touched a peak with a rise of 74p to 670p in this trading. The shares have now risen by 520p since the start of the year.

Liberty, the luxury stores group, advanced by a further 23p - making a two-day gain of 113p - in the wake of Monday's raid on the shares by James Capel. This boosted the rest of the sector. There were gains for Asda Retail 6p to 153p, Boots, 2p to 42p, Argos, 4p to 325p, Kingfisher, 6p to 553p, Marks and Spencer, 6p to 279p, Mess Bros, 3p to 122p, Next, 2p to 37p, and WH Smith A, 6p to 438p.

Barton Groves firmed 1/4p to 39p as the deadline for the group's £160 million-plus rights issue was reached.

MICHAEL CLARK

## Dow rises in early dealings

SHARES firmed in morning trading with blue chips slightly lower after rising on an opening bout of futures-related buying.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed three points to 3,004.34 after reaching almost 3,008.

□ Tokyo - Prices closed earlier after a session of index-futures trading. The Nikkei index closed 113.67 points, or 0.49 per cent, lower at 22,772.00. News that Toyo Shinko Bank of Osaka was involved in improper loan deals made investors wary, but firming yen-bond prices supported sentiment. (Reuters)

The Wall Street price table has been held out for production reasons.

## RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Size
Aberforth Solr (100p)	120	100
Aberforth Solr (100p)	104	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100
Alcon (100p)	20	100

See main prices page for Electricity shares

## RIGHTS ISSUES

Company	Price	Size
Alan Paul N/P	1	1
Explains N/P	8	8
Howden N/P	1	1
J.J. Group N/P	1	1
Mountain N/P	1	1
Wharfedale N/P	1	1

(Issue price in brackets)

## MAJOR INDICES

Index	Value	Change
New York	3008.40 (+27.08)	
SEK Composite	391.61 (+3.79)	
Tokyo	22772.00 (-113.67)	
Nikkei Average	22772.00 (-113.67)	
Hong Kong	4052.70 (-17.44)	
Hang Seng	1113.47 (+6.05)	
FTSE 100	2584.9 (+15.5)	
Amsterdam	922 (+0.3)	
CBS Tendency	1523.9 (-11.5)	
Sydney: AO	1844.72 (+16.65)	
Frankfurt: DAX	5730.84 (-10.57)	
Paris: CAC	470.77 (+0.55)	
Zurich: SCA	846.0 (+0.5)	
London:		
FT-A All-Share	1226.68 (+7.09)	
FT-100	1370.01 (+7.36)	
FT-Gold Mine	177.4 (-1.5)	
FT-Fixed Interest	94.45 (same)	
FT-Govt Secs	85.57 (+0.06)	
Bergain	239.51	
SEAO Volume	474.40	
USM (Debitstream)	122.94 (-2.81)	

\*Denotes latest trading price

## LONDON-BASED OPTIONS

Option	Call	Put	Call	Put
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200
Alcon (100p)	200	200	200	200

First Dealings: August 14, 1991. Last Dealings: August 14, 1991. For Settlement: August 14, 1991. Owners: August 14, 1991. For Settlement: August 14, 1991. Owners: August 14, 1991.







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# Conditions favour Gai Bulga

**NEWMARKET** trainers mount a strong challenge on the Upavon Filly Stakes at Salisbury today, fielding six of the nine entries.

Pride of place should go to Geoffrey Wragge's Gai Bulga, who looks particularly well treated by the conditions of this event, and she is my nap.

With just a solitary Pontefract maiden victory to her credit this term, the daughter of Kris escapes a penalty, but some of her placed efforts have been in top company.

Gai Bulga has had a nice break since finishing a respectable fourth behind Third Wind in the Ribblesdale Stakes at Royal Ascot and previous to that she gave Aushera a hard struggle before going down by a length in the Lingfield Oaks Trial.

My own reservation about Gai Bulga's chance today is that she reverts to a shorter

trip, but her class should see her through.

Alec Stewart's Al Theraab, who won well at Wolverhampton, may follow Gai Bulga home.

Salisbury has always been a happy hunting ground for Guy Harwood and the Pulborough trainer must have high hopes of capturing the Yarmouth Handicap with his light-weighted Duke Of Monmouth.

The Secret colt had to work hard to get the better of Beat Bee and Wings Of Freedom in a Windsor handicap earlier this month following a Redcar maiden success, but he should take advantage of the 26lb he receives from Paul Cole's Kalmadene.

Barry Hills brings out Adjacent quickly after her fourth in a strongly-contested

claim at Haydock Park on Saturday. This filly was good enough to land a decent maiden at Bath earlier this term and she should outstay Seal Indigo in the Bamber Bridge Claiming Stakes.

Seal Indigo's trainer, the informal Richard Hanson, should be on the mark in the opening Sandown Maiden Stakes with Bletchley Park, who was a close-up fifth behind Lady in the Windsor Castle Stakes at Royal Ascot.

The East Everleigh trainer should also be successful at Folkestone with Also in the Wakefield Handicap. This three-year-old was caught in the last stride by Ain't It Great at Brighton last week and can receive swift compensation here.

John Reid, Also's rider, may also collect the Hythe Maiden Stakes on the Wally Carter-trained Neptune's Pet,



Wragge raids Salisbury with his filly Gai Bulga who has performed creditably in two handicaps recently. Rival Bid looks the danger here.

up a smooth Ripon success with a victory on the turf at Southwell on Saturday and will take some pegging back here.

Another Saturday scorer was the Jimmy Fitzgibbon-trained Sybilina who ran on strongly to land an apprentice handicap at Redcar. This versatile performer meets tougher opposition today, but can compete a speedy double.

Peter Mackin's Cru Exceptionnel is preferred to Turbopan in the Max Jaffe Median Auction Maiden Stakes, while Elaine Bronson and Cathie should get back on the winning trail in the East Riding Yeomanry Trophy.

**SALISBURY**

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	MICHAEL SEELY
2.00 Bletchley Park	2.00 Bletchley Park	3.00 Jaffa
2.30 La Belle Vie	2.30 HOW'S YER	
3.00 Duke Of Monmouth	FATHERMAN	
3.30 GAI BULGA (nap)	3.00 Duke Of Monmouth	
4.00 Adjacent	3.00 Gai Bulga	
4.30 Iron King	4.00 Adjacent	
	4.30 Napoleon Blue	

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 Al Theraab.

The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings: 3.30 GAI BULGA.

123456789101112131415161718192021222324252627282930313233343536373839404142434445464748495051525354555657585960616263646566676869707172737475767778798081828384858687888990919293949596979899100

2.00 SANDOWN MAIDEN STAKES (2-Y-O: £2,000; 8) (16 runners)			
1 (13)	20 ANNAZ 56 (5) (M) D. B. 50-0	W. Clerton	85
2 (12)	25 SILVERLY 56 (5) (F) D. B. 50-0	R. Parkins (5)	86
3 (11)	CROSBY DANCER (M) W. Ong 50-0	S. Whitworth	87
4 (12)	FREEPHONE (Amity Finance Ltd.) J. Hills 50-0	R. Hills	88
5 (10)	SEWARD WATTS (R) R. Whitworth/R. Hansen 50-0	B. Raymond	78
6 (14)	LANDSTAR 21 (M) S. J. Hill 50-0	W. Newman	89
7 (15)	MISTER JOSSON (J) Murelli R. Hodges 50-0	T. Sparks	84
8 (9)	OSSIE (J) Knowledge B. Pelling 50-0	A. Mutton	80
9 (13)	PONCHICA (J) L. Lewis/R. Hill 50-0	A. Medlicott	81
10 (8)	POWERFUL 56 (15) S. Smith J. Bolding 50-0	R. Cochrane	86
11 (7)	SPORTS VIEW (J) Warner/R. Hodges 50-0	J. Williams	82
12 (13)	TRUMPET (J) The Queen's School M. Roberts 50-0	M. Roberts	84
13 (14)	CHOPPY CHOPPY 14 (M) J. Corbett B. Hills 50-0	M. Hills	84
14 (16)	CLASSICAL CHARRIER (M) H. Duffield B. Mutton 50-0	R. Price (8)	85
15 (16)	LOBB 56 (16) G. Goss R. Hodges 50-0	R. Hodges	87
16 (8)	NOMADIC ROSE 26 (5) W. Ongfield D. J. Hills 50-0	L. Dettori	80
BETTING: 11-10 Bleachery Park, 7-2 Powerful Edge, 6-1 Choppy Chippy, 12-1 Trumpet, Nomadic Rose, 15-1 Grand Vitesse, Freephone, Annaz, 20-1 other runners.			
1980: SOLD BOSTONIAN 54-0 Rutter (15-1) H. Cerny 12:20			

# FORM FOCUS

BLEATCHERY PARK 21st Sat to listen at Ascot (2), Goodwood (3), 24th Sat to listen at Goodwood (3), previously 12th Sat to listen at Ascot (2). In 1979, Annaz won 2000-gns. POWERFUL 56 (15) S. Smith J. Bolding 50-0. CHOPPY CHOPPY 14 (M) J. Corbett B. Hills 50-0. CLASSICAL CHARRIER (M) H. Duffield B. Mutton 50-0. LOBB 56 (16) G. Goss R. Hodges 50-0. NOMADIC ROSE 26 (5) W. Ongfield D. J. Hills 50-0. <b>TRUMPET</b> (J) The Queen's School M. Roberts 50-0. <b>W. Clerton</b> won 1980 at Middle Park. <b>SILVERLY</b> 56 (5) (F) D. B. 50-0.	FREEPHONE (Posted after 5, cost \$45,000) half-brother by Phone Trick to several winners, including 1st in 1979 at Middle Park. <b>SEWARD WATTS</b> (R) R. Whitworth/R. Hansen 50-0 (see 27) by Doornik out of a siller who won 3 races at 1979 Middle Park. <b>LANDSTAR</b> 21 (M) S. J. Hill 50-0.
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United States take lead as conditions worsen

# Fickle winds may alter the destiny of Admiral's Cup

By BARRY PICKTHALL

THE outcome of the Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup was in the lap of the fickle winds as the eight-nation fleet struggled to make any headway in the feeble winds experienced 40 miles west of Bishop Rock during the return leg of the Fastnet race back to Plymouth.

First on the water was the French 50-footer, Corum Saphir, still enjoying the 45-mile break her crew had won on the floor before rounding the Fastnet Rock. As she was approaching the Bishop Rock off the Scilly Isles at 4.30pm yesterday, the remainder of the 23-strong fleet was a mixture of One Tonners, Two Tonners and 50-footers. It required a computer to sort out the small differences within the tightly bunched fleet that have lifted the United States team ahead of the Italians in the overall standings, and seen the British three-boat team slump to fourth behind France.

Showing just how the winds, or lack of them, have turned this race inside out, the Danish One Toner, Zurich Forskling, was lying fifth overall last night, ahead of all her larger Two Ton rivals, while two 50-footers, Tuborg from Denmark and Cyclone from Australia, trailed at the back of the fleet.

The computer gave Laroux, of Italy, the lead in the Two Ton fleet, placing her

a mile closer to Bishop Rock than the RAF's Wings of Oracle and leading Danish entry, Unibank. Among the One Tonners, Corum Rubis from France, was apparently leading her class, which, combined with the performance of her 50-foot team colleague, was enough to lift the French above the British team for the first time.

More importantly, David Clarke's American One Ton world champion, Vibes, had recovered from sixth to second, helping to lift the United States team to the top of the overall leader board, despite the fact that no contact was made yesterday afternoon with the American 50-footer, Champosse.

The order behind Corum Saphir was Willi (Japan), Contender (Germany) and Juno V, of Britain, holding fourth place. Mike McIntyre, Juno's skipper, said during his position report that it was impossible to tell who was ahead of whom, or what would happen next. There were boats all around, continually shifting position as they criss-crossed each other to try to find an advantage.

Britain's fortunes were not helped last night by Port Penidenis's sixth place among the One Ton standings, or the excellent performance of Wings of Oracle, which had rounded the Fastnet Rock 48 minutes

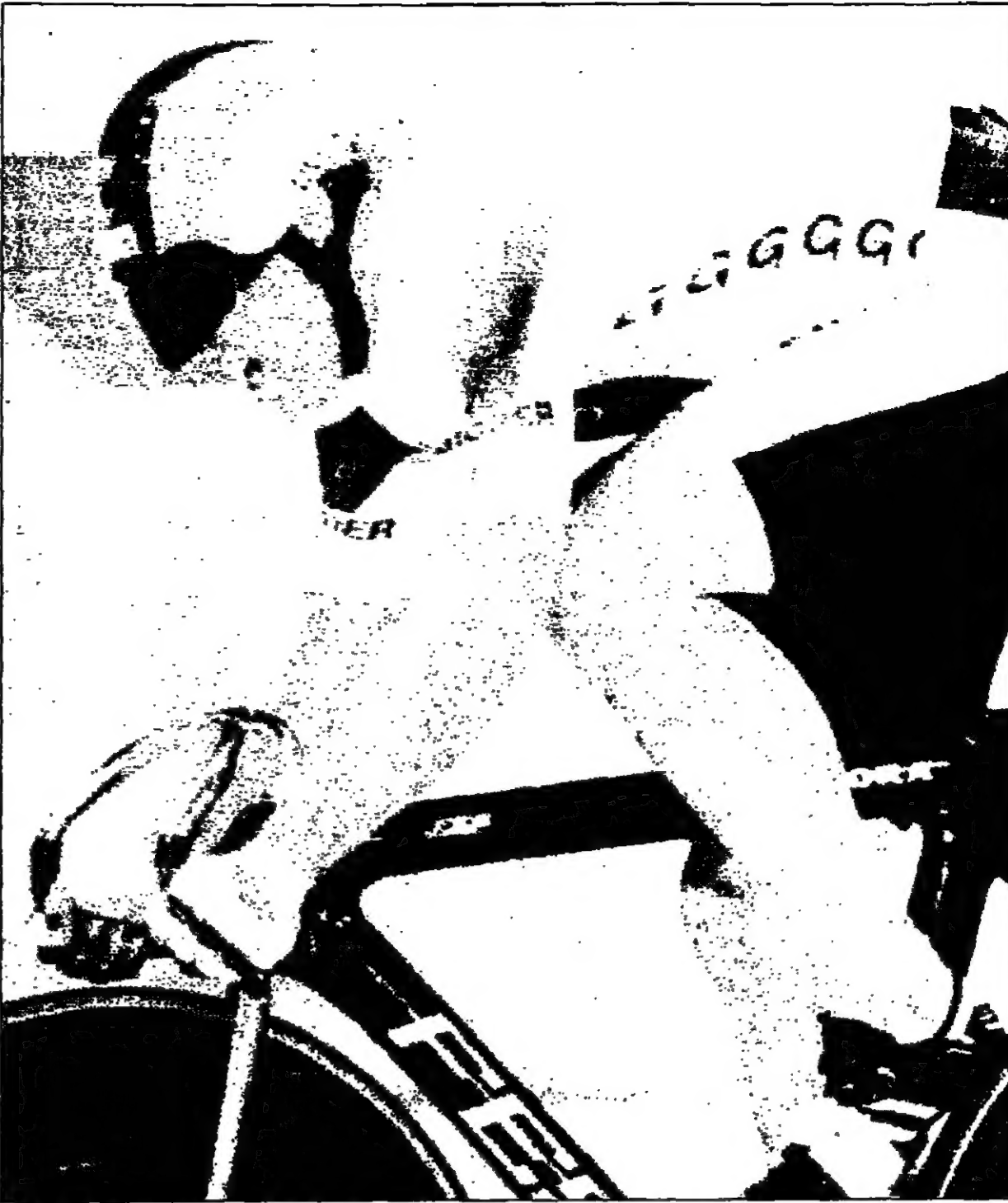
ahead of her nearest class rival, then seen it all set to be overtaken by the fickle breeze.

Last night, there was little cheer from the weather forecasters. As Raul Gardini's maxi yacht, Passage, swept in to Plymouth under spinnaker to take line honours shortly before 5.30pm, the weathermen could promise no more than 3-4 knots of wind through the night.

The final result of the Class 1 IOR series during Cowes week proved that John Taylor, on Advocate, was the overall winner, and not Ulrich Mathieson's HRG5, as was first reported.

Under the Combined Cowes Clubs complicated sailing regulations, the two yachts were tied for first place on points at the end of the week and were still level after the countback of total first and second places. The deadlock was only broken when the final race was taken into consideration when Advocate came second and HRG5 came sixth.

LEADING POSITIONS (at 4.30pm yesterday): 50ft class: 1. Corum Saphir (P. Mumm, 2. Willi (Japan), 3. Contender (Germany), 4. Juno V (M. McIntyre), 5. Zurich Forskling (J. Forskling), 6. Wings of Oracle (D. Clarke), 7. Champosse (J. Gardini), 8. Unibank (J. Unibank), 9. Juno V (M. McIntyre), 10. Zurich Forskling (J. Forskling), 11. Wings of Oracle (D. Clarke), 12. Champosse (J. Gardini), 13. Unibank (J. Unibank), 14. Juno V (M. McIntyre), 15. Zurich Forskling (J. Forskling), 16. Wings of Oracle (D. Clarke), 17. Champosse (J. Gardini), 18. Unibank (J. Unibank), 19. Juno V (M. McIntyre), 20. Zurich Forskling (J. Forskling), 21. Wings of Oracle (D. Clarke), 22. Champosse (J. Gardini), 23. Unibank (J. Unibank).



Life in the fast lane: Bill Huck, the German sprint cyclist, on his way to setting a world amateur record of 10.18sec in the 200 metres heats at the world championships in Stuttgart yesterday. Report and results, page 32

## EQUESTRIANISM

### Inspired Moore grabs at chance

By JENNY MACARTHUR

OWEN Moore won the competitive open intermediate section at the Everdon Horse Trials in Northamptonshire yesterday, sponsored by John D Wood and Company, on the Dutch horse, Heerle's Another Luke. He had sat on the horse for the first time on Monday.

Moore, who capitalised on his excellent dressage mark with a clear round in the show jumping and cross country said he was "extremely" happy when asked, last Sunday, if he would ride the horse. His usual rider, Andre van Spaendonck, had had three unsuccessful outings with the horse since arriving in England.

"He's a fantastic horse," Moore, who left Lars Sederholm's yard six weeks ago to run his own livery yard outside Chipping Norton, said after his win. "I started the cross country quite aggressively but the more I jumped the better he went."

The pair finished four points ahead of the runners-up, John Bowen on Galfs Hill, who nearly missed competing altogether. Bowen, one of three riders to finish on a score of 44 but the fastest at cross country, had broken down on his way to the event.

He then had his horsebox filled up with water instead of diesel at a local garage. The organisers took sympathy on him and allowed him to compete out of order.

Sharon Lemon and Oh Nicholas, the winners of Bramham in 1990, and Diana Clapham, a former British team member, finished on the same score to take third and fourth place.

The two fastest rounds in the section came from Sarah Taylor, on Crown Lapis Lazuli, and Sarah Cotton, on Hadrian's Pride, who finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Christopher Barrie, the former Olympic dressage rider, was also fast and clear over the testing Everdon ground to finish seventh on Willoughby Good.

The world champion, Blyth Tait, had a less successful outing. He parted company from Pedro The Coming ridden by Mark Todd, at The Coffin.

The usually reliable horse was having only his second outing since his recovery from a near-fatal accident last November.

While the cross country course yesterday was widely praised, the show jumping course was criticised by several riders for being too flimsy and too small.

RESULTS: Open intermediate: 1. Heerle's Another Luke (O. Moore), 40.2; 2. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 44.3; 3. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 44.4; 4. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 44.4; 5. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 44.5; 6. Hadrian's Pride (S. Cotton), 44.5; 7. Willoughby Good (C. Barrie), 44.6; 8. Pedro The Coming (M. Todd), 44.7; 9. Blyth Tait (B. Tait), 44.8; 10. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 44.9; 11. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 45.0; 12. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 45.1; 13. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 45.2; 14. Hadrian's Pride (S. Cotton), 45.3; 15. Willoughby Good (C. Barrie), 45.4; 16. Pedro The Coming (M. Todd), 45.5; 17. Blyth Tait (B. Tait), 45.6; 18. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 45.7; 19. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 45.8; 20. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 45.9; 21. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 46.0; 22. Hadrian's Pride (S. Cotton), 46.1; 23. Willoughby Good (C. Barrie), 46.2; 24. Pedro The Coming (M. Todd), 46.3; 25. Blyth Tait (B. Tait), 46.4; 26. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 46.5; 27. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 46.6; 28. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 46.7; 29. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 46.8; 30. Hadrian's Pride (S. Cotton), 46.9; 31. Willoughby Good (C. Barrie), 47.0; 32. Pedro The Coming (M. Todd), 47.1; 33. Blyth Tait (B. Tait), 47.2; 34. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 47.3; 35. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 47.4; 36. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 47.5; 37. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 47.6; 38. Hadrian's Pride (S. Cotton), 47.7; 39. Willoughby Good (C. Barrie), 47.8; 40. Pedro The Coming (M. Todd), 47.9; 41. Blyth Tait (B. Tait), 48.0; 42. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 48.1; 43. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 48.2; 44. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 48.3; 45. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 48.4; 46. Hadrian's Pride (S. Cotton), 48.5; 47. Willoughby Good (C. Barrie), 48.6; 48. Pedro The Coming (M. Todd), 48.7; 49. Blyth Tait (B. Tait), 48.8; 50. Oh Nicholas (S. Lemon), 48.9; 51. Galfs Hill (J. Bowen), 49.0; 52. Diana Clapham (D. Clapham), 49.1; 53. Crown Lapis Lazuli (S. Taylor), 49.2; 54. 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American captain to adopt pragmatic approach

## Champion Daly gives Stockton a Cup problem

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

DAVE Stockton, the United States captain, found himself in a dilemma last night as he attempted to complete his selection for the Ryder Cup match against Great Britain and Europe at Kiawah Island from September 27 to 29.

Stockton's problem over which two players to add to the 10 already named or qualified was set by John Daly, the 25-year-old from Arkansas who captured the imagination of the American public by winning the US PGA Championship on Sunday.

Initially Stockton was set to overlook Daly despite his famous win but as he mused on the subject he became increasingly obliged to take a pragmatic approach. Stockton was forced to weigh up how Daly would react to being thrust into the head-to-head competition which has become the determining factor in the balance of power in world golf.

Daly made it clear following the US PGA championship that nothing would inspire him more than the chance to take on the Europeans on the Ocean Course which, like Crooked Stick, where he won on Sunday, was built by Pete Dye.

"No man can imagine how much desire I have to beat foreigners," Daly said. "I'm tired of them coming over here and winning our tournaments. I'd love nothing more than to have a crack at them at Kiawah."

Stockton had come to a conclusion on which two players he wanted but that was before Daly's astonishing rise from obscurity. He realised that to include him would mean upsetting one of the others.

Stockton, aged 49, had said that this would be the "no fun" moment of his job and it was clearly all that.

Stockton had been looking to perm two from three out of Chip Beck, Tom Kite, and Tom Watson. It seemed that he was certain to bypass Jack Nicklaus as two players had indicated that they did not feel Nicklaus would fit into the team.

Stockton said: "My biggest challenge is finding the two guys who will fit the team rather than make the team fit two guys. Then after that I have to think of the other thing which is pairing the guys correctly together so that their talents are showcased."

Watson, five times the Open champion, has dis-

cussed the match throughout the summer with Stockton. His performance in the Masters, where he pushed Ian Woosnam until taking a six at the 18th at Augusta, put him in the front line at the start of the season. Stockton also has a high regard for Watson's temperament and his fighting qualities.

Kite has the experience although in recent months he has appeared to have lost his touch on the putting green. Beck, however, has played well in recent weeks and that seemed likely to be a decisive factor. Beck also possesses a very compact swing and he strikes the ball on a lower trajectory than most professionals. That could prove significant, too, on the Ocean Course where the wind is likely to howl.

But Stockton was clearly taken by the achievement of Daly at Indianapolis. "It's fantastic and I think he will play in many future Ryder Cups," Stockton said. "But a captain has to be on top of it. It's gotten away from captains just showing up on the day of the tournament and I've been asking all the players to go down there during the summer to see it."

### US RYDER CUP TEAM

PAUL AZINGER: Age 31. Ht 5ft 8in. Wt 125lb. Turned Pro 1981. Major championships: None. US Tour wins: 7. US Tour earnings: \$4,135,807. Sony World Ranking: 7. Ryder Cup 1989 = Played 4, Won 4, Lost 1. A question over his fitness as he has not played since undergoing arthroscopic surgery on right shoulder in June. If he withdraws, Tim Simpson will replace him.

MARK CALCAVECHIA: Age 31. Ht 6ft. Wt 145lb. Turned Pro 1981. Major championships: Open (1989). US Tour wins: 5. US Tour earnings: \$3,450,405. Sony World Ranking: 20. Ryder Cup 1987, 1989 = Played 7, Won 3, Lost 4. One of America's longest drivers but ranks only 142nd in accuracy. Struggling this year to keep his game together.

FRED COUPLES: Age 31. Ht 5ft 11ins. Wt 135lb. Turned Pro 1980. Major championships: None. US Tour wins: 5. US Tour earnings: \$3,326,581. Sony World Ranking: 9. Ryder Cup 1989 = Played 2, Lost 2. Earned third place in Open with last round 64 and possibly America's best golfer without a major championship win. Ranked top three in driving distance. Improved putter.

HALE IRWIN: Age 45. Ht 6ft. Wt 125lb. Turned Pro 1968. Major championships: US Open (1974, 1975, 1980). US Tour wins: 19. US Tour earnings: \$4,485,278. Sony World Ranking: 10. Ryder Cup 1975,



Irwin: experienced

1977, 1979, 1981 = Played 16, Won 11, Lost 4, Halved 1. Twice World Match Play champion, his experience will be invaluable. Leader in driving accuracy on US Tour.

MARK O'MEARA: Age 34. Ht 6ft. Wt 125lb. Turned Pro 1980. Major championships: None. US Tour wins: 5. US Tour earnings: \$3,640,836. Sony World Ranking: 15. Ryder Cup 1985, 1989 = Played 5, Won 1, Lost 4. Rock solid rather than flamboyant. Good in most departments and a particularly good iron player.

STEVE PATE: Age 30. Ht 6ft. Wt 125lb. Turned Pro 1983. Major championships: None. US Tour wins: 4. US Tour earnings: \$2,458,605. Sony World Ranking: 27. Ryder Cup: Debut. Question-mark over his driving although improves well with his irons. Good putting stroke.

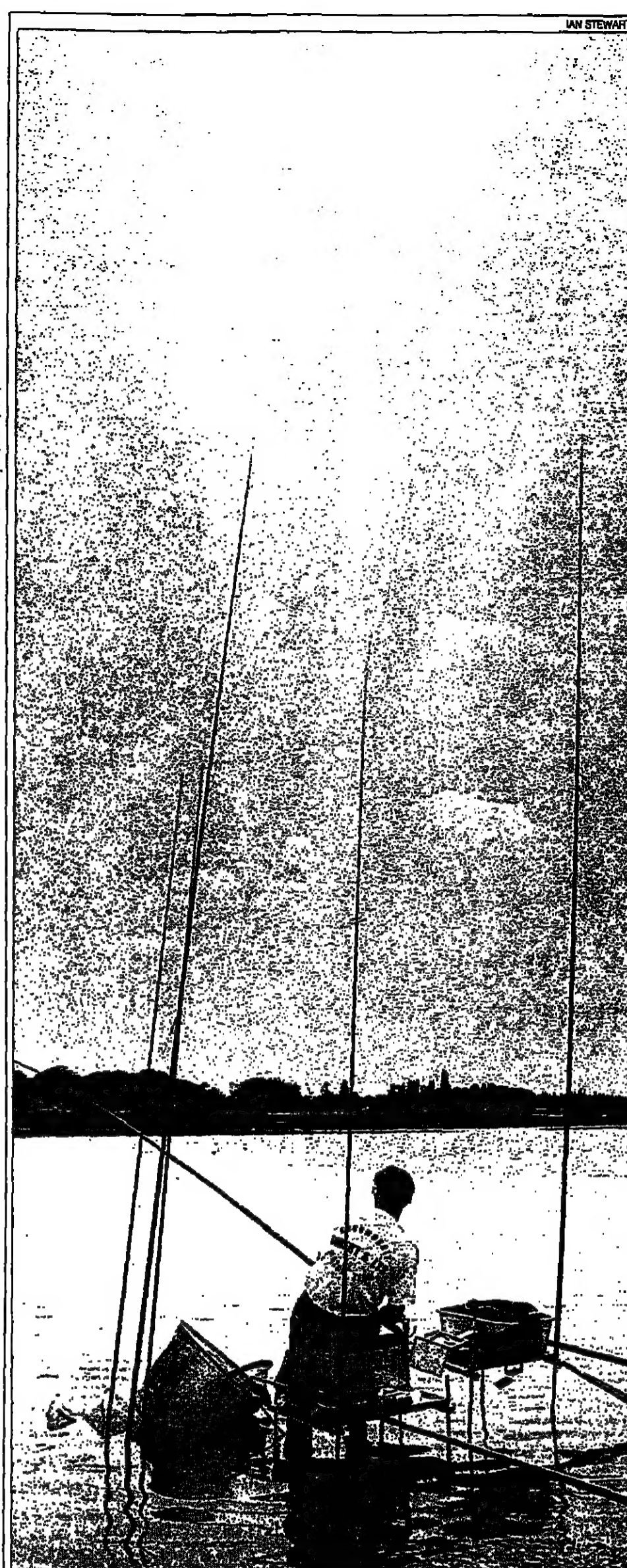
COREY PAVIN: Age 31. Ht 5ft 8in. Wt 105lb. Turned Pro 1981. Major championships: None. US Tour wins: 9. US Tour earnings: \$3,136,884. Sony World Ranking: 18. Ryder Cup: Debut. A little guy with a big heart. Accurate driver and Tour's number one putter this season.

PAYNE STEWART: Age 34. Ht 6ft 1in. Wt 125lb. Turned Pro 1979. Major championships: US Open (1981), US PGA (1989), US Tour wins: 9. US Tour earnings: \$4,688,059. Sony World Ranking: 6. Ryder Cup 1987, 1989 = Played 5, Won 3, Lost 5. Unquestionably America's current number one although his irons and dress contrasts sharply with his sober style.

LANNY WADKINS: Age 41. Ht 5ft 8in. Wt 114lb. Turned Pro 1971. Major championships: US PGA (1977). US Tour wins: 20. US Tour earnings: \$5,220,756. Sony World Ranking: 14. Ryder Cup 1977, 1979, 1985, 1989 = Played 25, Won 15, Lost 9, Halved 1. Much feared opponent because of his aggressive play and never-say-die attitude.

DAVE STOCKTON (Captain): Age 49. Ht 5ft 11ins. Wt 125lb. Turned Pro 1964. Major championships: US PGA (1970, 1976), US Tour wins: 11. US Tour earnings: \$1,275,453. Ryder Cup 1977 = Played 5, Won 3, Lost 1, Halved 1. His team will be well briefed as he has left nothing to chance. Meticulous man with one aim: To return the Ryder Cup to the USA of America trophy room.

Two selections to be made by Stockton.



Casting a line on troubled water: surrounded by his selection of poles, Tino Masala, of the Robert and Lys match team, awaits a bite on the first day of the World Super Cup fishing tournament at Holme Pierrepont, near Nottingham, yesterday.

## Racing shapes up for a shift in power base

By RICHARD EVANS

THE Jockey Club, which has controlled British racing for more than 200 years, is preparing to give way to a new democratic body to run the sport. A group, chaired by Lord Hartington, the senior steward, is expected to recommend radical changes to the club's stewards within the next two months.

The power-sharing plan coincides with criticism from a Commons select committee, which concluded that racing lacked commercial and democratic credibility and required a "powerful and competent single body to speak for and manage the racing industry".

A team of four, headed by Lord Hartington and including Christopher Haines, the Jockey Club chief executive, has met twice. It is sounding out senior club members, racing executives, trainers, racecourse chiefs and owners as it prepares to end two centuries of rule by a body which has been described as a self-perpetuating oligarchy.

Jockey Club officials will be anxious to make their plans known to the Home Office before Kenneth Baker responds to the select committee report, which advocated that racing should not be allowed to run the £200 million Tote pool betting business until it has put its own house in order.

The Hartington team has identified two options for the future. Hartington and Haines are understood to favour, in principle, the creation of a single authority to run racing. The proposed authority would consist of a large elected membership from racing and Jockey Club members. An electoral college would be created to elect stewards. A racing board would be formed as a commercial arm. Apart from pooling the assets from the various racing bodies, it

would negotiate with bookmakers over the size of their contribution to the sport.

The Levy Board, which collects about £40 million from off-course punters via bookmakers, would be subsumed within the new authority and remain as the collecting agency.

The drawback to the plan is that it requires legislation. A "halfway house" solution also being canvassed is to change the existing ethos of the Jockey Club and to broaden its membership so that a wide range of representatives from the industry could become members. This could be achieved without primary legislation and an electoral college could still be introduced to elect stewards.

The disadvantage with that could be entrenched opinion at Portman Square, which would block change.

A blueprint into future ruling structures, being prepared by the Horseracing Advisory Council, racing's "think tank", could provide assistance to Jockey Club officials. The HAC's ten-man team, headed by Sir Nevil Macready, is due to discuss proposals within the next three weeks.

Some form of power sharing in racing looks inevitable with key players within the sport required to give up personal power bases.

The Racecourse Association, representing Britain's 59 tracks, would be required to pool its shareholding in Satellite Information Services and other media rights.

The most radical steps will involve the Jockey Club itself. Portman Square would almost certainly be expected to give up the exclusive right to organising the fixture list and rules of racing.

Today's cards, page 31

## Associate clubs find their feet

By PETER BALL

THE Associate Members yesterday decided to stand up and be counted with the Football League. Meeting for the only time since the first division elected to form the Premier League under the aegis of the Football Association, the third and fourth division clubs voted to keep the right of appeal against the High Court ruling in the Premier League's favour.

They also called for immediate talks with the second division to "establish the basis for a restructured Football League" and have agreed to do everything to maintain their status as full-time national clubs.

The fourth resolution, "to establish a restructured Football League as the nation's premier competition leading to European qualification",

has a sting in the tail. "The prospects of withdrawing from the FA Cup and isolating the Premier League, including in reserve and youth team football, was not ruled out," the League statement concluded.

Even more telling would be a ban on promotion and relegation between the Football League and the Premier League. A structure including Wimbledon, Luton Town, Oldham Athletic and Notts County as part of an elite while excluding Newcastle United, Sunderland, Derby County, Wolverhampton Wanderers, Birmingham City and Bolton Wanderers would lack credibility.

Somerset expects, page 30  
Palace postponed, page 30  
Pleat's mission, page 30

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## Gooch basks in reflection of a golden summer

THE most powerful emotion portrayed by Graham Gooch's features on Monday evening was not triumph or fulfilment, to which he had every entitlement. It was exhaustion, that insidious fatigue which is kept at bay only by adrenaline. When the action stops, it overwhelms you.

While others in and around the England dressing-room were drinking and, in Philip Tufnell's case, spraying the victory champagne, Gooch went in search of a cup of tea. It was a very English reaction to a very un-English day, a day when West Indies were beaten with more style and conviction than, perhaps, has ever been their fate since the tyrannical reign of four hostile fast bowlers was imposed 15 years ago.

It is necessary to go back a long way to locate an England victory of comparable merit, one which defied logic. Gooch was the author of the improbable tale, but it was not in him to gloat over it. He was, in any event, too tired.

Gooch, it must be said, is an extremely fit 38-year-old, but even for him this five-match series, containing only one of the traditional Sundays off, has been a draining experience. He has given his all, physically and mentally. Quite rightly, he has demanded the same of everyone under him

Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, pays tribute to a triumph of leadership by an exhausted and very English captain

and, contrasting sharply with the maddening indifference evident in Australia, he has received it.

It has been a triumph of leadership by a man who ended the winter tour questioning if he was up to the job. He can no longer harbour such self-doubts, which few others ever shared, and it would now be appropriate if, within the coming few days, he was confirmed not only as captain against Sri Lanka next week, but for the New Zealand tour and the World Cup this winter.

An oblique comment by Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, to the effect that no one should assume Gooch will still be in charge even next week until he, Dexter, says so, was generally dismissed as a teasing throw-away in the post-series euphoria. It was, however, no coincidence that Gooch's appointment only involved the five Tests against West Indies.

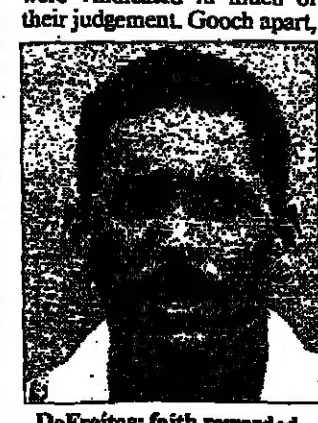
For much of the summer his willingness to extend a touring career which began in 1978 has been in worrying doubt.

Gooch first expressed a reluctance to tour again in 1986, after the fraught trip to the Caribbean which followed his South African suspension. The captaincy enticed him around him could rely. His batting, 480 runs at an average of 60, was crucial to the outcome, and his developing skills as a handler of individuals were constantly evident, not least at the very end, when Ian Botham was a more compliant senior professional than at any previous time.

The team which won at the Oval contained only five of the players who won the first Test at Headingley, yet it was not a summer of selectorial turmoil. No more than 18 players were employed and the three selectors, Gooch, Dexter and Mickey Stewart, were vindicated in much of their judgement. Gooch apart,

this wonderful series with West Indies, the best seen in this country for ten years. Gooch has been the permanent fixture on whom all around him could rely. His batting, 480 runs at an average of 60, was crucial to the outcome, and his developing skills as a handler of individuals were constantly evident, not least at the very end, when Ian Botham was a more compliant senior professional than at any previous time.

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DeFreitas: faith rewarded

only three men saw the series through, but it was a contrasting trio. Atherton played five games for a batting average of 8.77 and must be profoundly grateful it is over, but DeFreitas and Ramprakash were the two most significant gains of the summer.

DeFreitas, for so long a frustrating under-achiever, at last fulfilled the faith he has been shown. He was England's most consistently penetrative bowler, his 22 wickets being taken at 20 runs apiece. Before this series, his 48 wickets, had cost more than 40 runs each.

In Ramprakash, England have a considerable talent for the future, a classical technique matched by great powers of concentration. His achievement in surviving at least an hour in each of his nine innings was quite remarkable.

Lamb, a force against West Indies over three series, declined sadly and has no clear way back. Hick, arriving in a fanfare of expectation, departed confused and exposed; he, at least, will be back to repair his reputation against lesser bowlers than Ambrose, who dismissed him six times.

The reputation of Smith, however, has never been higher. To average more than 50, having played upwards of 50 Test innings, is a rare

achievement, and he now exudes command, in addition to his visual determination.

Lawrence has overtaken Malcolm as the favoured fast bowler, and quite properly so. He may not be the thinking man's bowler but he has harnessed improved control and stamina to his whirling willingness. At the Oval, he simply bowled himself into the ground. Pringle, at a more sedate pace, has also had a worthy series, and if the persistence with the limited illness ahead of the gifted but headstrong Tufnell was overdone, the emergence of a real spin bowler was well worth the wait.

A final word about West Indies. They remain a fine, often formidable side, and without Greenidge and Bishop, two sturdy bookends, they sustained a high level of performance after their initial stumble in quite alien conditions at Headingley. Richardson's batting and Ambrose's bowling were magnificent. Richardson's captaincy was never less than dignified. The series was conducted throughout in an exemplary spirit. It has, truly, been a golden summer.

Hampshire's mission, page 32

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